Friday, March 6, 2026 No 65 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Andhra mulls Rs 25,000 for second child in population push

CM Naidu sounds alarm over state's fertility decline

Page 12

Canadian PM heaps praise on Modi for welfare delivery

Page 14

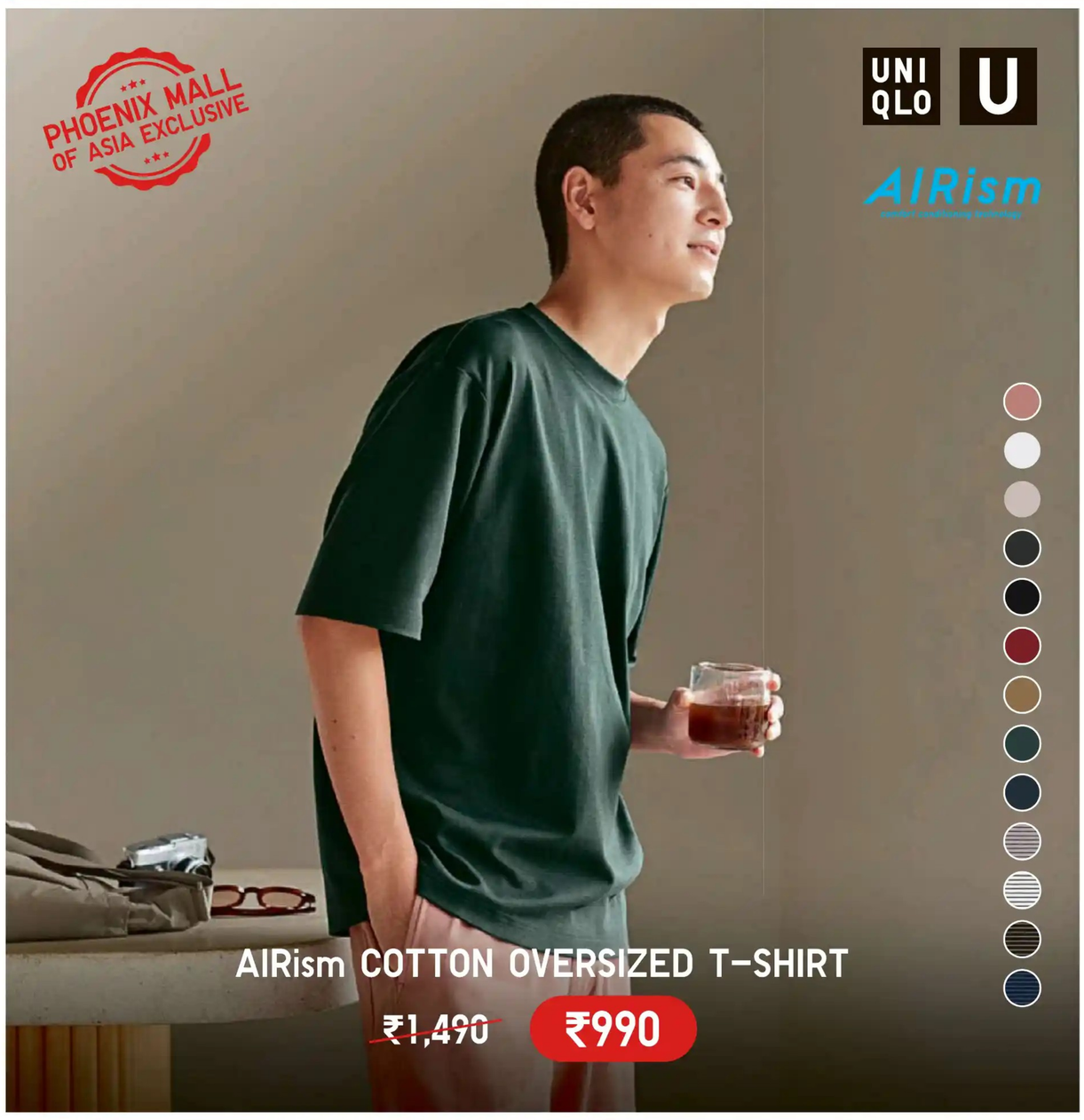
UNIQLO

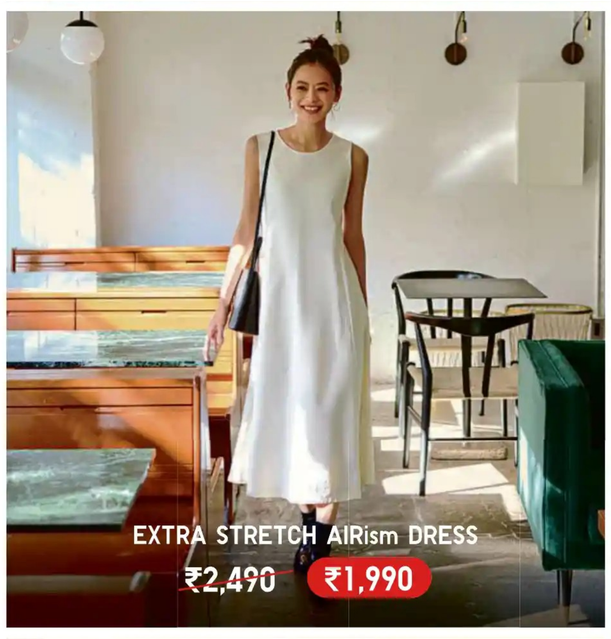
LifeWear

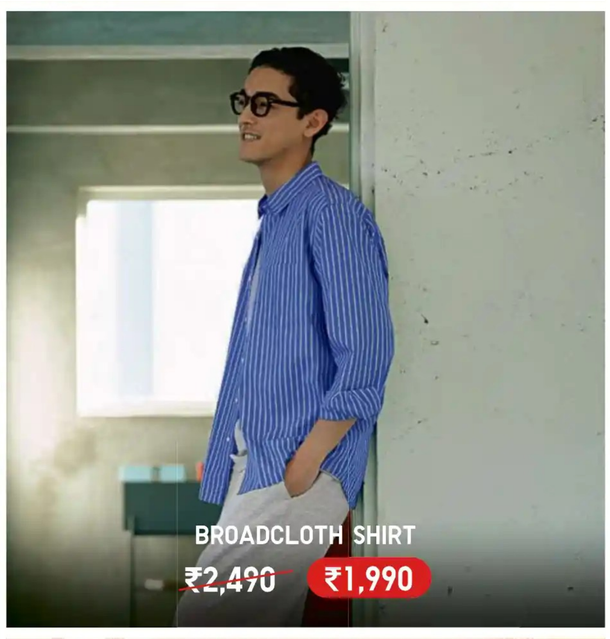
UNIQLO'S NEW STORE NOW OPEN

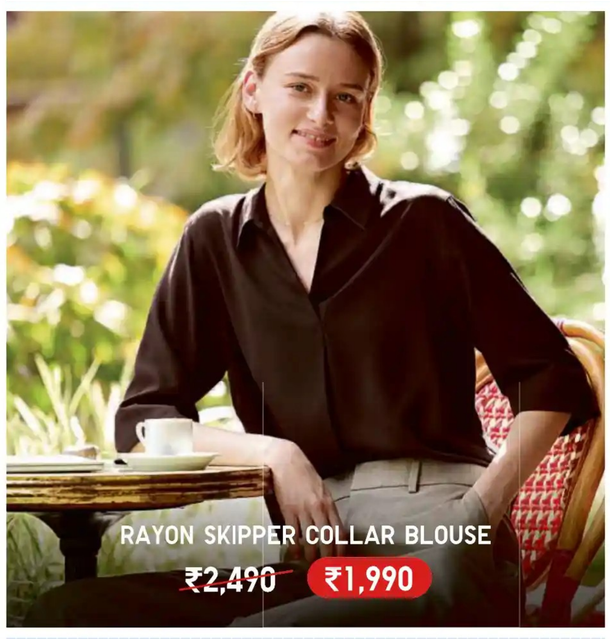
PHOENIX MALL OF ASIA

LAUNCH OFFERS ON LIFEWEAR ESSENTIALS | 6–12 MARCH









*Please note that the availability of size and colors for the products listed is subject to change based on current stock levels.

FIRST 100 SHOPPERS* BENEFITS

₹1000 Voucher on shopping above ₹6000 + Free Round Mini Shoulder Bag + Free Coffee & Cookie from Blue Tokai

Free Tote Bag on shopping above ₹6000 between 6–8 Mar. Till stocks last. *T&C Apply

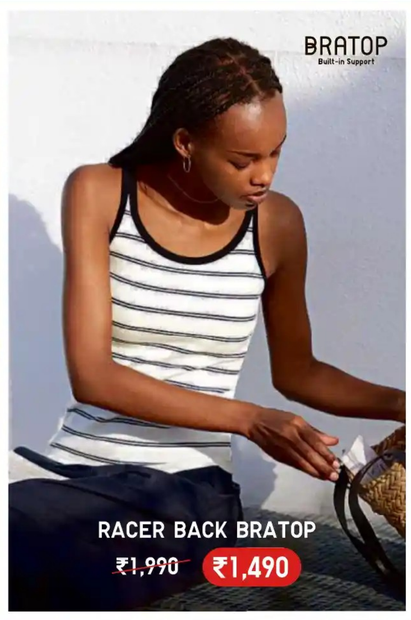
*Exclusively at UNIQLO, Upper Ground Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia

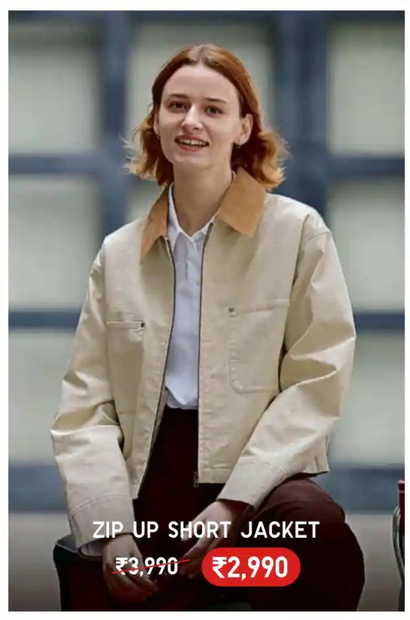
UNIQLO'S NEW STORE NOW OPEN

LifeWear

PHOENIX MALL OF ASIA

OFFERS ACROSS BENGALURU | 6–12 MARCH

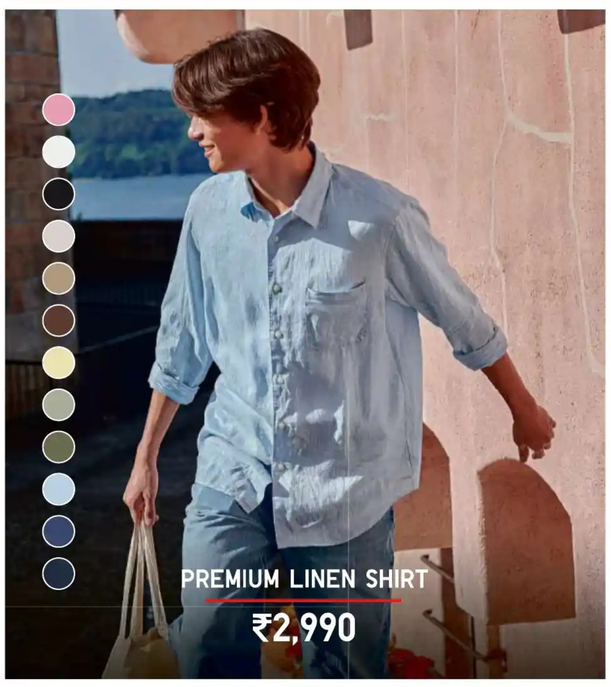


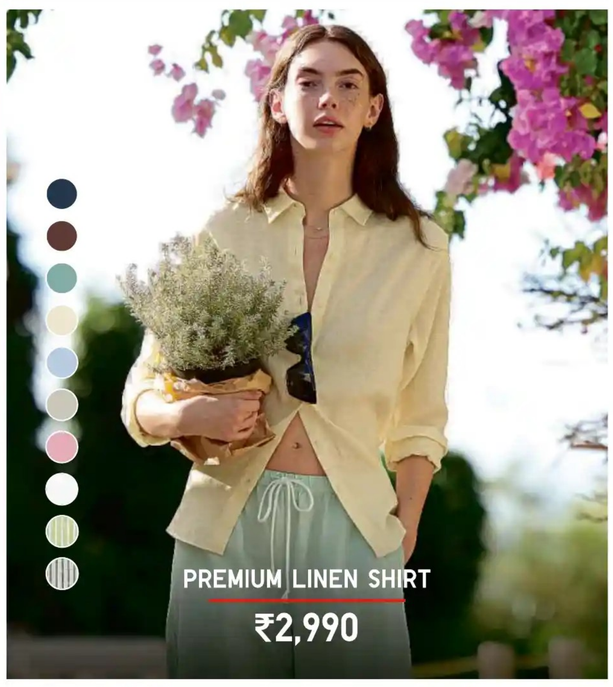


GLOBAL BESTSELLERS

Linen Shirts

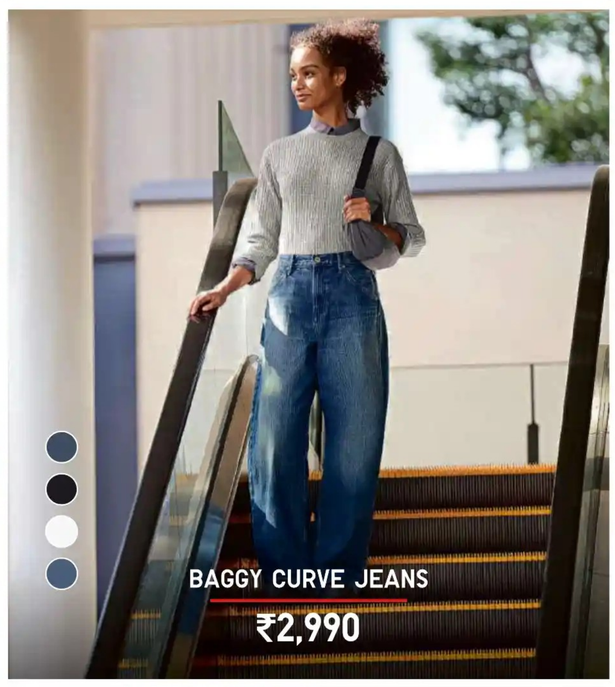
Timeless designs, classic styles,
premium quality – perfect for summer days.

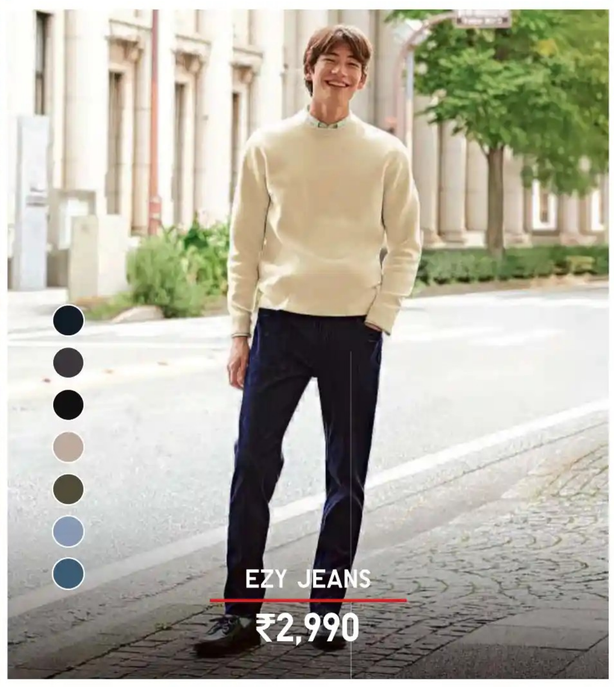




Jeans

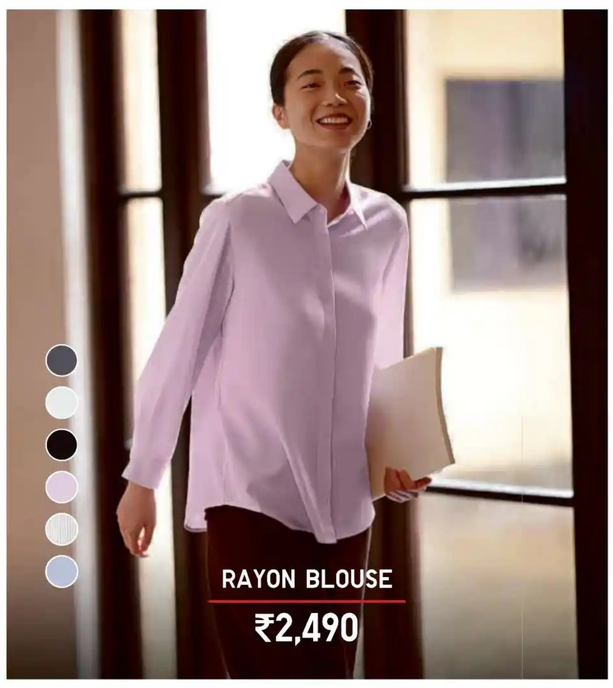
For casual days or on-the-go moments,
these jeans offer unbeatable comfort.





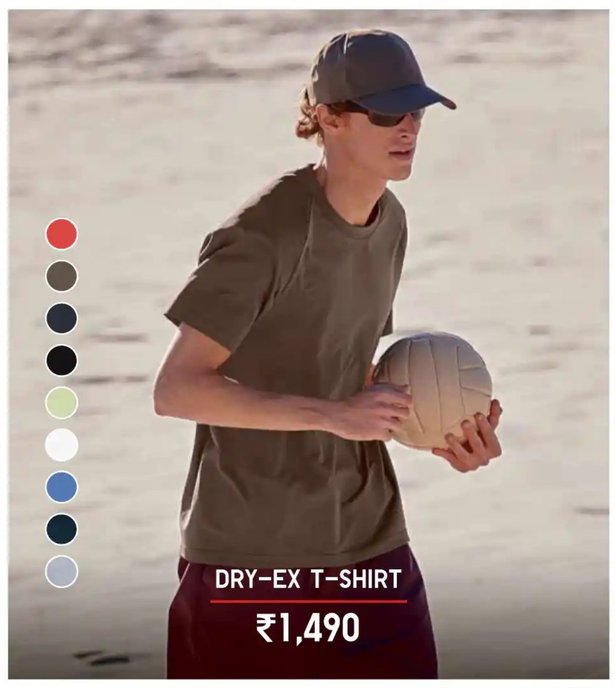
Workwear

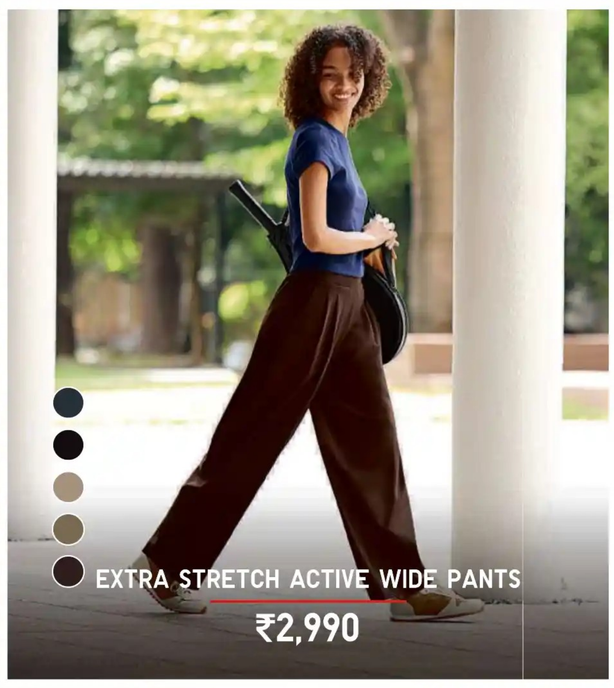
Smart, functional and versatile.
Designed for your 9–5 and beyond.



Sports Utility Wear

Stay active in comfortable, stretchable
and quick-drying fabric.

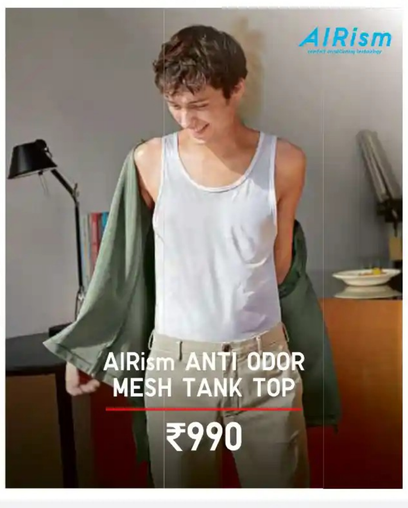




AIRism Innerwear

Light as air, cool to the touch.
Discover comfort redefined
with AIRism innerwear.

AIRism mesh
fabric wicks
sweat



DRY Tech,
moisture-wicking
comfort

UV Protection

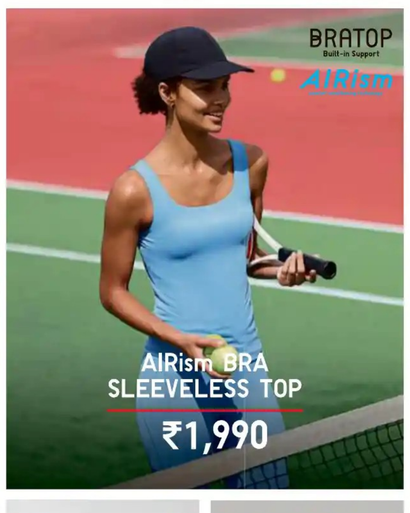
Hood with
a visor

Makes it easy to stay safe and cool,
with lightweight essentials for every
summer plan.

Ultra stretch
fabric

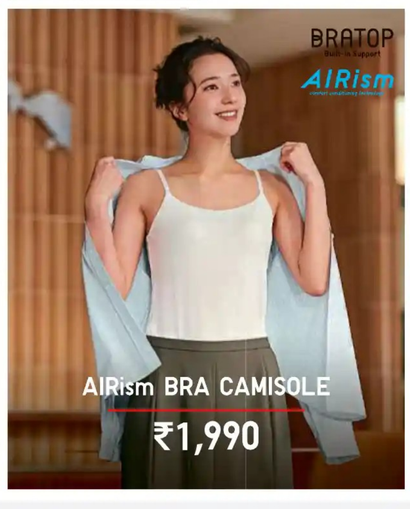
Bratop

Your perfect base layer
with the support of a bra
and the comfort of a top.



Built-in bra for
all-day comfort

No visible seams
at the neckline
and armholes



SHOP ONLINE AT UNIQLO.COM

Download the App and win a
Welcome Coupon of ₹300.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Visit us at

- Upper Ground Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia
- Ground Floor, Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

India set up title clash with New Zealand

Hosts survive Bethell scare to register 7-run win over England in second semifinal

Page 17

Lanka offloads crew of 2nd Iran ship

WAR RAGES: Azerbaijan accuses Iran of drone strike; Tehran continues to hit Gulf

COLOMBO/DUBAI, AGENCIES

Sri Lanka has offloaded the crew of an Iranian navy vessel and assumed control of it, the South Asian nation's president said Thursday, a day after a deadly US submarine attack on another ship.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said in a televised address that his country's navy had offloaded 208 sailors from the IRIS Bushehr, which had requested port entry due to engine trouble.

The Bushehr, like the ship torpedoed off Sri Lanka's southern coast on Wednesday, the IRIS Dena, had recently participated in a naval exercise in eastern India, Dissanayake said.

At least 84 sailors were killed in the torpedo attack.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi denounced the attack and warned Washington it would "bitterly regret" establishing such a precedent.

Araghchi accused the US Navy of committing "an atrocity at sea". "Mark my words: The US will come to bitterly regret (the) precedent it has set," he said on social media.

Meanwhile, Iran launched a new wave of attacks against Israel, American bases and countries around the region.

Tehran's expanding retaliatory strikes came even as Israel and the US hammered Iran for a sixth day.

The war has escalated each day, affecting an additional 14 countries across the Middle East and beyond. On Thursday, Azerbaijan accused Iran of attacking it with drones — though Tehran denied that.

▸ Iran, Page 8

People run as smoke rises following an explosion, amid airstrikes by Israel and the US, in Tehran on Thursday. REUTERS

THURSDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

1 Iran: Israel begins a 'large-scale wave of strikes' across country

2 Israel: Two blasts in Jerusalem; Iran launches missiles carrying one-tonne warheads

3 Lebanon: Israel kills Hamas official in Lebanon; govt bans activities of Revolutionary Guards in country; Hezbollah deploys elite fighters

4 Iraq: Drone attack on a US site in Erbil; Kurdish rebels targeted

5 Azerbaijan: 2 Iranian drones fall into Azerbaijan's exclave on Iran's northern border, injuring two civilians. Azerbaijan president vows retaliation

6 Strait of Hormuz: More tankers come under attack; includes a Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker, another tanker in Kuwait

7 UAE: Six injured in Abu Dhabi in drone attacks

8 Qatar: Intercepts multiple drones from Iran

• **Israel** took the decision to kill Khamenei in November, Defence Minister Israel Katz said

US, allies seek Ukraine's expertise

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said the US and its allies are seeking Kyiv's expertise in countering Iran's Shahed drones. Russia has fired tens of thousands of Shahed drones at Ukraine since it invaded its neighbour in 2021. **Details on Page 14**

India condoles Khamenei's death

India on Thursday condoled the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri signing the condolence book at the Iranian Embassy in Delhi. The development came six days after Khamenei was killed. **Page 9**

GAIL warns of gas supply cuts

State-run GAIL (India) Ltd is planning to slash natural gas supplies to select customers after roughly 30% of India's LNG imports were blocked due to the West Asia crisis. Major insurers have withdrawn or raised coverage, forcing shipping lines to suspend operations. **Page 15**

Today, the world is passing through a phase of instability... Whether in Ukraine or in West Asia, we will continue to support every effort aimed at the early end of conflict.
Narendra Modi, PM

The US has perpetrated an atrocity at sea, 2,000 miles away from Iran's shores. Mark my words: The US will come to bitterly regret precedent it has set.
Abbas Araghchi, Iranian FM

TN Guv transferred to poll-bound West Bengal

Incumbent Guv Ananda Bose resigns; Mamata alleges 'pressure'

R N Ravi

Ananda Bose

SHEMIN JOY & E T B SIVAPRIYAN
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, DHNS

With elections just round the corner, the Modi government on Thursday night transferred Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi to West Bengal in place of C V Ananda Bose, who submitted his resignation in the fourth year of his tenure, a move that was seen with suspicion by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Kerala Governor Rajendra V Arlekar has been given the additional charge of Tamil Nadu, which is also going to polls along with West Bengal and two other states and a UT.

Soon after Bose resigned in New Delhi, Banerjee said she had been informed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that Ravi would take over as the new Governor of the state.

The transfer of Ravi, a controversial face who had several run-ins with the M K Stalin-led DMK government, as well as Bose's resignation came as a surprise, amid Mamata claiming that she would not be surprised if the outgoing Governor was "subjected to some pressure" from Shah.

"...Given the prevailing circumstances, I would not be surprised if the Governor has been subjected to some pressure from the home minister to serve certain political interests on the eve of the forthcoming Assembly elections," Banerjee posted on X.

The Congress was also quick to raise the red flag over Ravi's transfer, with General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh saying the former IPS officer was "very much part of the Modi ecosystem".

Claiming that he had to be moved out of Nagaland where he was the interlocutor "because of the style of his functioning", Ramesh said Ravi was moved to Tamil Nadu where he has been a "perfect disgrace". "Now he is shifted to West Bengal where he is guaranteed to make a nuisance of himself," he added.

Ravi's tenure in Tamil Nadu was eventful with Stalin even mocking him several times by asking Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to transfer him out of the state as he has emerged as the "chief campaigner" for the DMK.

▸ Ravi, Page 8

Nitish takes RS path. Will BJP's Samrat rule in Bihar?

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Nitish Kumar's wish to become a member of the Rajya Sabha has triggered intense speculation in Bihar over who could succeed him as chief minister.

Among the names being considered is Samrat Choudhary. However, there is no official confirmation regarding this.

Another name being floated as a potential CM is that of Nityanand Rai.

Notwithstanding the protest by JD(U) workers, Nitish, flanked by senior ministers and Home Minister Amit Shah, filed his nomination on Thursday.

BJP, with 89 MLAs in the 243-member House, is likely to stake a claim for the top job. Bihar is the sole Hindi heartland state where the party has not had a CM. While campaigning for Samrat last year, Shah had appealed to the voters to ensure his victory as "he is cut out for a big post".

▸ Nitish Kumar, Page 8

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar files his nomination for the Rajya Sabha polls in Patna on Thursday. PTI

Sukhoi goes missing in Assam

GUWAHATI, DHNS: A Sukhoi-30 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) went missing soon after it took off from Jorhat airbase in eastern Assam on Thursday evening.

Sources in the IAF headquarters in New Delhi said the aircraft lost contact soon after taking off from Jorhat at 7.42 pm.

A search and rescue mission has been initiated, they said, adding that further details are being ascertained.

Sources in the Karbi Anglong district said local residents observed a massive fire following a huge sound near Chokihola under Bokajan sub-division.

The district administration, however, could not confirm the reports about the crash of the aircraft.

"We have rushed a team to the site and are awaiting response," Karbi Anglong District Commissioner, Aranyak Saikia, told *DH* over phone.

Fears of new levies in Siddu's 17th budget

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who will present his record 17th Budget as the finance minister today, may offer new programmes for women, farmers and workers, while fear lingers that he may consider fresh levies on citizens to mobilise resources.

Siddaramaiah is scheduled to start his Budget speech at 10.15 am in the Legislative Assembly.

It was in 1994-95 that Siddaramaiah presented his first budget as the finance minister in the HD Deve Gowda government.

The 2026-27 Budget will be the fourth in his second term, and a politically significant one.

The current financial year saw not only fiscal woes, but also the peaking of Siddaramaiah's power tussle with his deputy DK Shivakumar.

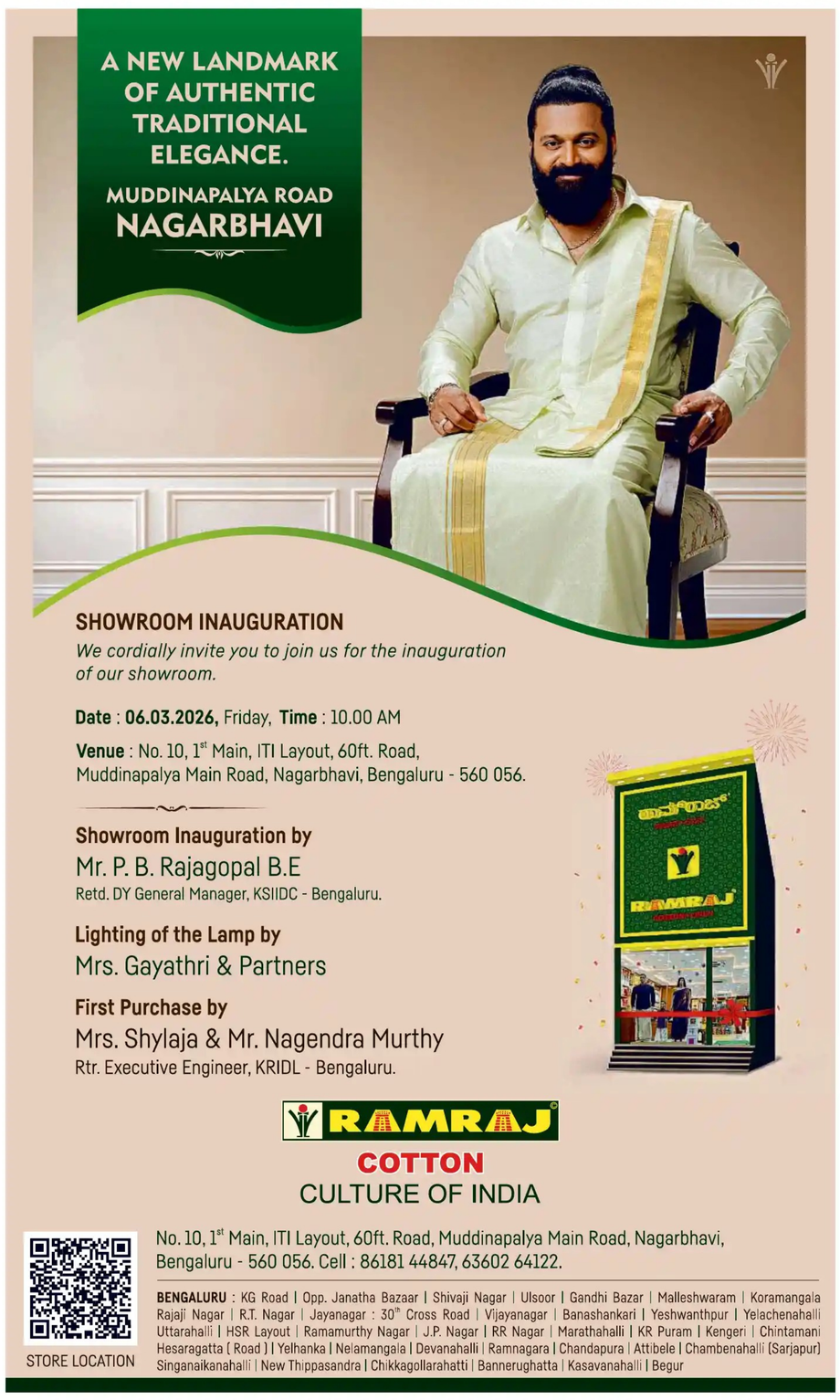
It is expected that Siddaramaiah will use the Budget as a platform to silence his critics — within Congress and outside.

In 2025-26, Siddaramaiah presented an outlay of Rs 4.09 lakh crore, which could see a downward revision as the government is staring at a revenue shortfall.

Mobilising additional resources is inevitable for Siddaramaiah, who faces the challenge of having to fund the Congress' five 'guarantee' schemes and spend on infrastructure, something that lawmakers in the governing dispensation are desperately waiting for.

To shore up revenues, the CM has a few options like hiking sales tax on petrol and diesel, motor vehicles tax and stamp duties.

▸ Budget, Page 8


A NEW LANDMARK OF AUTHENTIC TRADITIONAL ELEGANCE.
MUDDINAPALYA ROAD
NAGARBHAVI
SHOWROOM INAUGURATION
We cordially invite you to join us for the inauguration of our showroom.
Date : 06.03.2026, Friday, Time : 10.00 AM
Venue : No. 10, 1st Main, ITI Layout, 60ft. Road, Muddinapalya Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru - 560 056.
Showroom Inauguration by
Mr. P. B. Rajagopal B.E
Retd. DY General Manager, KSIIDC - Bengaluru.
Lighting of the Lamp by
Mrs. Gayathri & Partners
First Purchase by
Mrs. Shylaja & Mr. Nagendra Murthy
Rtr. Executive Engineer, KRIDL - Bengaluru.
RAMRAJ
COTTON
CULTURE OF INDIA
No. 10, 1st Main, ITI Layout, 60ft. Road, Muddinapalya Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru - 560 056. Cell : 86181 44847, 63602 64122.
STORE LOCATION
BENGALURU : KG Road | Opp. Janatha Bazaar | Shivaji Nagar | Ulsoor | Gandhi Bazar | Malleshwaram | Koramangala | Rajaji Nagar | R.T. Nagar | Jayanagar : 30th Cross Road | Vijayanagar | Banashankari | Yeshwanthpur | Yelachenahalli | Uttarahalli | HSR Layout | Ramamurthy Nagar | J.P. Nagar | RR Nagar | Marathahalli | KR Puram | Kengeri | Chintamani | Hesaragatta (Road) | Yelhanka | Nelamangala | Devanahalli | Ramnagara | Chandapura | Attibele | Chambenahalli (Sarjapur) | Singanaikanahalli | New Thippasandra | Chikkagollarahatti | Bannerughatta | Kasavanahalli | Begur

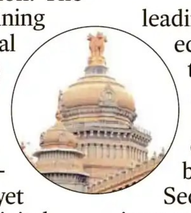
In tech hub Bengaluru, legislators still clinging to CDs

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Major constraints

1. Complicated workflow in bicameral system
2. Complications with heritage building (structure, wiring, etc.)
3. Older generation legislators' reluctance

Bundles of compact discs lie stacked in a small room in the Notice Branch of the Assembly Secretariat at Vidhana Soudha, ready to be sent to the Legislators' Home ahead of the Budget session. The bundles, each containing 40 CDs, carry annual reports of boards and corporations, along with audit documents — a reminder that Karnataka's legislature is yet to turn completely digital.



Though various government departments have begun shifting to pen drives and embedding hyperlinks on the official website, the transition remains partial. Ironically, Karnataka, which boasts of leading the country's IT ecosystem, is among the few states still struggling to go fully digital when it comes to legislative business, though the Secretariat has made incremental progress.

At present, an online library provides access to legislative material, including Parliament resources. Questions and answers, Bills and debates are available online.

▸ Digitisation, Page 8

India trade deal close to 'finish line': US official

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the United States is "close to the finish line", which would unlock huge economic potential for both countries, US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue 2026 event, Landau said the proposed deal would help expand trade flows and strengthen economic cooperation between the two democracies.

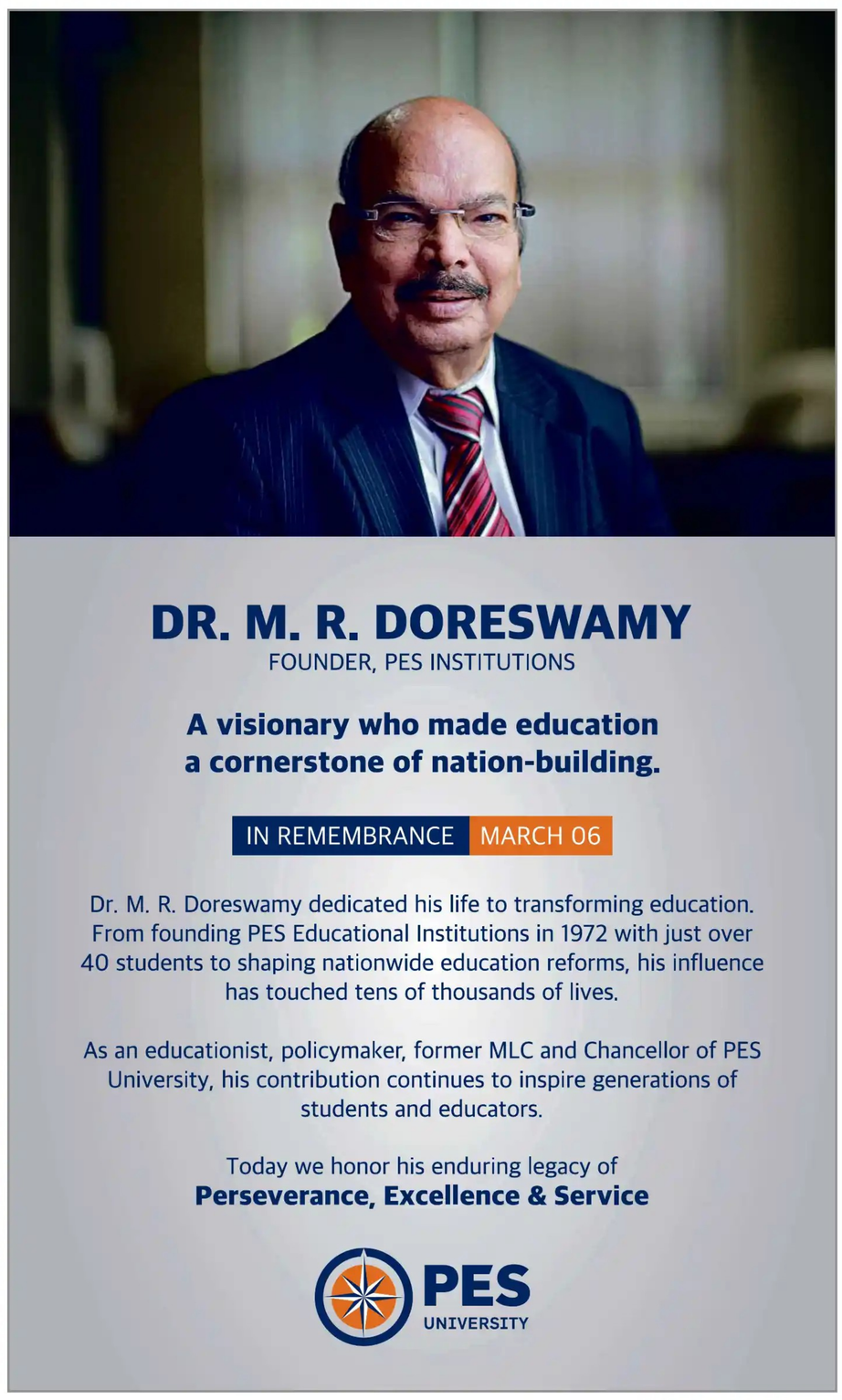
Details on Page 15

Voting concludes peacefully in Nepal

KATHMANDU, PTI: Millions of Nepalese voted on Thursday in the country's first general elections since violent Gen Z protests toppled the K P Sharma Oli-led coalition government last year, with corruption and generational change in leadership as the main issues in the politically fragile nation.

The election is being closely watched by India, which hopes for a stable government in the politically fragile Himalayan nation.

Details on Page 14


DR. M. R. DORESWAMY
FOUNDER, PES INSTITUTIONS
A visionary who made education a cornerstone of nation-building.
IN REMEMBRANCE MARCH 06
Dr. M. R. Doreswamy dedicated his life to transforming education. From founding PES Educational Institutions in 1972 with just over 40 students to shaping nationwide education reforms, his influence has touched tens of thousands of lives.
As an educationist, policymaker, former MLC and Chancellor of PES University, his contribution continues to inspire generations of students and educators.
Today we honor his enduring legacy of
Perseverance, Excellence & Service
PES UNIVERSITY

BUDGET ANALYSIS

Rs 3,000 cr released for B'luru; bulk used to clear pending bills

Major infrastructure projects are yet to take off

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In the last one year, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received Rs 3,000 crore from the state government through budgetary allocations.

A significant portion of the funds was spent on settling bills for works such as asphalting and white-topping of roads, and improvements to storm water drains and lakes. These projects were largely approved during the tenure of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

In his budget speech last year, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah more than doubled the allocation for Bengaluru, increasing it from Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 7,000 crore. He proposed a slew of infrastructure projects and announced the creation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to execute major works in the city.

With the financial year drawing to a close, the GBA has so far received Rs 2,250 crore in three installments. The final tranche of Rs 750 crore has also been cleared for release. Officials, however, do not expect the remaining Rs 4,000 crore to be released before the end of March.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the authority had not sought the release of additional funds as there was no immediate requirement.

"A number of projects are still in the conceptual stage. We will request grants depending on necessity," he said. He added that funds required for projects undertaken by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) would be routed through the GBA.

In 2021-22, the Bommai government approved projects worth Rs 8,015 crore for Bengaluru, largely related to roads, drains, lakes and solid waste management.

In addition, the Siddaramaiah government has sanctioned new works worth Rs 2,250 crore, most of which are road projects. "The payment cycle is such that bills for works announced by one government are cleared by the successive government," an officer said.

Despite these allocations, Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure, particularly its pothole-ridden roads, made international headlines last year.

Notably, both the Rs 8,015-crore and Rs 2,250-crore action plans largely comprised minor works such as asphalting, while major infrastructure projects such as double-decker corridors, flyovers and railway underbridges, which require substantial grants, have yet to receive government support.

A large share of the funds went towards clearing pending bills for road asphalting and white-topping, as well as improvements to storm water drains and lakes. DH FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru Business Corridor gets Rs 500 crore

The government has released Rs 500 crore for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor, as promised in the state budget.

Although the project, estimated to cost Rs 27,000 crore, is primarily being funded through a loan from HUDCO, the state government has committed Rs 500 crore towards initial expenses.

Officials said the funds have been used for various purposes, including compensation for land losers.

GBA boss inspects ongoing works in West Corporation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday inspected the ongoing works under the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) and directed officials to provide a free left turn from Modi Hospital Road towards Basaveshwara Main Road and from Kurubarahalli Road towards Shankar Mutt Road.

He directed officials to engage urban planners to take steps for the comprehensive development of the circle.

Rao also inspected the ongoing white-topping work at Dr Rajkumar Road.

Of the 700-metre stretch between Navrang Theatre and Rajajinagar 10th Cross, one portion of the road work has been completed and opened for vehicular movement.

The chief engineer informed that the remaining portion of the road will be completed by March 31.

"White-topping work on the 1.8-km stretch from Navrang to Star Bazaar Signal is also being taken up.

"Utility works on one side have already been completed and the white-topping work will begin from today. Officials were instructed to complete the ongoing work on one side by the end of July," a statement from the corporation said.

BWCC Commissioner Rajendra KV said that Kurubarahalli Main Road is narrow and widening the road would significantly reduce traffic congestion in the area.

"In this regard, the officials concerned have been instructed to examine the feasibility of road-widening and submit a report," he said.

Observing that the register books related to job codes and technical approvals were still being maintained manually, Rao directed officials to shift them to an online system starting from the next financial year.

East Corporation latest to auction properties with tax dues

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru East City Corporation will auction six properties in the KR Puram zone on Saturday for failure to clear pending property tax dues.

All six properties have defaulted on tax payment for more than one year. If the owners clear the entire pending property tax before the auction begins, the properties will be withdrawn from the auction process, officials said.

In a press note, Sudha, Joint Commissioner of KR Puram Zone, urged interested people to take part in the auction.

"Under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2025, it is mandatory for all property owners or occupiers within the city corporation limits to pay property tax annually. In cases where property tax remains unpaid for more than one year, the procedure for recovery is governed by the Property Tax Assessment, Collection and Management Rules, 2024," she said.

"As per the provisions of the Act and Rules, show-cause notices and property tax demand notices were issued to the defaulters. Despite being given sufficient time to clear the dues, the property owners failed to make the payment," she said.

The Joint Commissioner said periodic mobile messages were also sent to the defaulters reminding them to clear the outstanding property tax.

Road works

Earlier in the day, East City Corporation officials led by Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar inspected various ongoing road and drainage works, including Chroma Road, footpath works along the stretch from Marathahalli bridge to Iblur Junction on the Outer Ring Road and road development works on Sarjapur Road.

BMTC plans AC bus services to Malur, Vijayapura & Solur

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Authority (BMTC) plans to introduce air-conditioned bus services from the city to neighbouring towns such as Malur, Vijayapura and Solur in the coming months, a senior official said.

On Wednesday, the BMTC launched Vajra Vistara (Volvo) AC bus services connecting Bengaluru to Ramanagara and Kanakapura.

It has deployed six buses on the route connecting the Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) to Ramanagara and eight on the Banashankari-Kanakapura route. The Majestic-Ramanagara fare is Rs 95 and Banashankari-Kanakapura Rs 90.

This was the first time that the BMTC introduced bus services on routes located 40 km beyond the Greater Bengaluru Authority (formerly BBMP) boundaries.

Additionally, it is planning bus services to Malur, Vijayapura and Solur in the next two or three months. "We're working out the modalities," the official told *DH*. "We can run bus services up to 65 km from the city centre."

The official clarified that the BMTC would not compete with the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). "The KSRTC operates ordinary (non-AC) services to these neighbouring towns, while our plan is to run AC services."

In April 2023, the BMTC launched Volvo bus services to Chikkaballapur — its longest route at the time — with the KSRTC's permission. Two buses were deployed on the route, and the fare was only Rs 80, which was later increased by 15%. The buses make six one-way trips daily.

Late last year, the Transport Department expanded the BMTC's operational area up to 40 km beyond the city limits.

Second expansion

This was the second expansion in the city bus corporation's operational network. In 2014, it expanded from 20 km to 25 km.

But as Bengaluru kept growing, with a significant increase in population and expansion of its boundaries, several towns in the suburban areas have also developed, and residents commute to various parts of the city for employment and other essential purposes. Accordingly, the Transport Department considered it necessary to further extend the BMTC's operational jurisdiction.

The BMTC has a fleet of 7,147 buses and operates 6,286 of them per day on average.

Voters asked to submit claims & objections on revised poll roll

BENGALURU, DHNS: The draft electoral roll for Bengaluru Central City Corporation will be published on Monday as part of preparations for the civic body elections.

Additional District Election Officer (Central) and Corporation Commissioner P Rajendra Cholan on Thursday urged voters to submit claims and objections on the revised draft electoral roll, if any.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of various political parties and officials, Cholan said the draft electoral roll was published on January 19 and the revision process is underway.

"Citizens have been provided an opportunity to raise objections or submit claims if they notice discrepancies in the revised list," he said.

Constituencies such as CV Raman Nagar, Shivajinagar, Shantinagar, Gandhinagar, Chamarajpet and Chickpet, which together cover 63 newly delimited wards, fall under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation.

Officials said voters can file their claims and objections between March 10 and 16. The time window is expected to be similar for other corporations as well.

RETHINKING BRAIN SCIENCE

Health dept working to strengthen mental health screening: Minister

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao with Dr Pratima Murthy, Director of Nimhans, at the event on Thursday.

BENGALURU, DHNS

The three-day International Conference on Clinical Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience (I-CNCNC 2026) began at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) on Thursday.

The conference blends knowledge from various sub-specialities and includes workshops for mental health professionals, students of psychology, neuropsychologists and neuroscientists, among others.

Speaking after the inauguration, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "Mental health is extremely important, and in a populous country like India, creating awareness about mental health is crucial."

"Mental health is one of the key concerns among the many challenges faced by society today."

He added that the Health Department is also working to strengthen mental health screening through the Home Health Programme, where ASHA workers are being trained to identify and assess mental health issues among people.

Efforts are also on to ensure the availability of mental health specialists in every district. The minister urged the public not to hesitate to seek help and to consult experts when they experience mental health concerns.

Dr Subrata Rakshit stressed the need to bridge the gap between engineering, technology and AI, and biology by acknowledging the role of memory, cognition, neuroplasticity and attention in developing educational technologies. He also stressed the importance of optimising active learning in educational contexts.

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director of Nimhans, gave an overview of the interdisciplinary history of the institution before elaborating on the need for holistic neuropsychological practices encouraged in the conference.

She added that neuropsychological implications are not limited to neurological conditions, but are present in psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and social media addiction.

She also stressed the benefits of leveraging technology such as AI for improved diagnosis and treatment for various conditions.

ROAD UPGRADE BEGINS

Milling work on MG Road between Queen's Circle Junction and Anil Kumble Circle began on Wednesday night, marking the start of a 15-day project to develop the 2.2-km stretch. It was taken up by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Hyderabad bizman robbed of Rs 20 lakh near KIA

Was lured with a promise of treasure gold coins

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a broad daylight incident, a gang of four allegedly robbed a Hyderabad-based businessman of Rs 20 lakh after luring him with the promise of selling gold coins at a discounted price near Devanahalli on the city's northern outskirts on Wednesday.

P Vishwaprasad Reddy, 58, had come in contact with a man named Ramaraju through previous business dealings.

Ramaraju's driver, Shaik Baji, 32, allegedly approached Reddy with an offer, claiming that a Bengaluru-based man named Kumar had said a group had discovered a treasure of gold coins on open land. The group, he claimed, wanted to sell the coins discreetly at Rs 20 lakh per kilogram.

On March 3, Ramaraju showed Reddy two gold coins to substantiate the claim. Reddy had them examined in Hyderabad and was reportedly told that they were genuine one-gram coins with 18-carat purity.

Trusting the offer, Reddy flew to Bengaluru on March 4 carrying Rs 5 lakh in cash. After landing at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), he hired a car and collected another Rs 15 lakh from his relative, Nidaganti Puttaiah, 48, who lives in Bengaluru, before meeting Baji.

The three then travelled along the Devanahalli-Anantapura highway to meet Kumar, who allegedly claimed to possess four to five kilograms of gold coins.

Reddy was asked to reach Venkatagiri Kote village around 1 pm. At that time, a group of unidentified men arrived on separate two-wheelers.

Two of them, armed with wooden sticks, allegedly assaulted Puttaiah and Baji, who were seated in the rear, and snatched a bag containing Rs 20 lakh from Reddy's car.

They also took away Reddy's iPhone and the mobile phones of the injured men before fleeing.

Reddy later reached the Devanahalli police station to lodge a complaint. He was subsequently referred to the Vijayanapura police, who registered a case of dacoity against Kumar and four others.

A special team has been formed to trace the accused.

69-year-old woman dies after being hit by speeding car

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 69-year-old woman was killed after a speeding car struck her while she was crossing the road in north Bengaluru early on Thursday.

The deceased, Mary Margaret, was a resident of Amruthahalli. The incident occurred around 5.30 am on Amruthahalli 18th Main Road that connects to Jakkur Layout.

Margaret was crossing the main road when the car coming from the Amruthahalli side at high speed knocked her down. The impact flung her several feet away, leaving her with a head injury.

The car driver rushed her to a nearby hospital. However, doctors who examined her on arrival declared her brought dead, stating that she had succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital.

The Hebbal traffic police visited the spot and conducted a preliminary mahazar. Police have seized the car and taken the driver, Prabhakar, into custody.

More measures required to prevent dog bites: Lokayukta

BENGALURU, DHNS: Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and from the five city corporations who appeared before the Lokayukta recently said that measures were being put in place to shift dogs at various institutions to shelters.

The Lokayukta had registered a suo motu case against the corporation after a senior citizen was killed in a dog bite incident in North Bengaluru.

Presentation by the GBA revealed 1.5 lakh dogs in the city have been vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine and funds have been released to each corporation for the construction of dog shelters.

Every corporation has also identified dog feeding spots under its jurisdiction. Each corporation presented a comprehensive report on the measures taken to vaccinate the dogs and set up shelter homes.

Dissatisfied with the measures, the Lokayukta directed the officials to prepare a comprehensive plan within April 30.

"Several actions initiated are at the stage of either identifying the land or initiating the tender process. Wherever the tender process is already initiated, matters are at the stage of issuance of work order and commencement of the work. Therefore, a lot more is required to be done. Therefore, the chief commissioner is impressed upon to expedite the process," a statement by the Lokayukta said.

Women bikers to take over city roads on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hundreds of women motorcyclists will converge in the city on Saturday for the 'She Leads. She Rides' rally celebrating sisterhood and motorcycling.

The event is organised in association with the Free Spirit Motorcycling Club and The She Impact.

The ride will cover 3 km in the city, followed by a curated evening of events.

"For a change, it is the men who sit pillion," said Veena Shetty of the Roaring Riders, highlighting the event's shift in traditional road dynamics.

She added that the gathering serves as an entry point for women who have always wanted to ride, but did not know where to begin.

The event will feature an all-woman live band, storytelling sessions by veteran riders and interactive games.

The celebration will run from 5 pm to 7.30 pm and is designed to be an inclusive space for both seasoned riders and those joining as pillions.

Organisers said registrations are open for all geared and non-geared riders on BookMyShow.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

PWD chief engineer, college professor among 3 raided by Lokayukta

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lokayukta officials on Thursday searched the premises of three government officials in Bengaluru over suspicion that they had amassed illegal wealth.

The searches were carried out at the homes and other premises of Vasanth V Naik, Chief Engineer, Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project (K-SHIP), Public Works Department; R Shashidhar, Chief Executive Officer of the Singanayakanahalli Raitha Seva Sahakara Sangha in Yelahanka; and H C Indresh, an associate professor at Veterinary College in Hebbal.

The raids were conducted following complaints that the officials possessed assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

Lokayukta officials scrutinised property documents and financial records during the searches.

According to Lokayukta officials, searches at 10 places linked to Naik unearthed immovable assets including four sites, seven houses, 22 acres and 20 guntas of agricultural land and movable valuables — all valued at Rs 6.4 crore. Of this, assets worth Rs 4.41 crore are suspected to be disproportionate.

Searches at five places linked to Shashidhar revealed four sites, two houses, two acres of agricultural land and movable valuables — together valued at Rs 5.15 crore. Of this, assets worth Rs 3.43 crore are suspected to be disproportionate.

During searches at six places linked to Indresh, officials found 10 sites, two houses and movable assets — all valued at Rs 2.53 crore. He is suspected to have amassed Rs 1.88 crore of illegal assets.

West Asia crisis triggers demand for chartered flights

'Some companies are using this as an opportunity'

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chartered flights are in demand during the ongoing West Asia crisis due to the limited availability of flights.

For people who are willing to shell out extra from their pockets, private companies are now operating chartered flights and have now began selling seats on their private planes, Rohit Hangal, director, Sphere Travelmedia and Exhibitions, told *DH*.

"Some companies are using this as an opportunity. One firm was offering a seat on a private jet from Dubai to Pune for Rs 80,000," he added.

A businessman from Bengaluru, currently stranded in the UAE with his family, also plans to charter a private jet after multiple unsuccessful attempts to get on a flight to India. "I'm spending lakhs on our stay here every day. It makes more sense to charter a flight to Bengaluru instead," he added.

Private companies are now operating chartered flights and have started selling seats on their private planes.

Price fluctuation

In Dubai, many are banking on the government-owned Emirates airline. "While online websites continue to show extremely jacked up prices, amounting to Rs 1 lakh to 2 lakh per person, buying tickets directly at the airport is proving to be much cheaper," passengers, who arrived from Dubai in Bengaluru late Wednesday evening, told *DH*.

For most passengers, the flight had been booked by the airline as a compensation for their cancelled flight. Others managed to get on the flight by paying approximately Rs 17,000 for the economy fare. "I was supposed to fly out of Abu Dhabi on Sunday, but when that flight got cancelled, I waited for a few days, and finally found one from Dubai. The flight actually ended up being much cheaper than my original flight," said Pratik, who landed in the city on Wednesday.

30 flights cancelled at KIA

On March 5, 30 flights were cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport due to airspace restrictions. An airport representative shared that Emirates would operate EK566/567 on Thursday, with a booked arrival load of 358 passengers and departure load of 203 passengers. However, on March 4, Emirates had announced that all flights to and from Dubai would remain suspended till March 7.

Work on widening highway inside ESZ without Forest Dept nod triggers row

Shivamogga-based NGO drew Forest Department's attention to the violation

BENGALURU, DHNS

A row has erupted over work undertaken along a state highway in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) at Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary by the Shivamogga division of the Public Works Department (PWD) on a state highway in the eco sensitive zone (ESZ) of the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary , with the Forest Department issuing orders to stop work while activists have demanded strict action for repeated violations.

Green Lives, a Shivamogga-based organisation, has been complaining to the Forest Department against unauthorised work in the ESZ of the sanctuary for the last few months. The issue took a turn after the organisation issued notice to the department under Section 55(c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which empowers public to file a court case after giving notice of 60 days.

"The PWD has undertaken road widening, construction of retaining walls, excavation, slope cutting and structural works under the guise of 'repairs and slope protection'. But till today no permission has been obtained," the notice said, referring to ongoing work at Hulikal Ghat on SH-52 (Thirthahalli-Kundapur Road).

Kudremukh Wildlife Division Deputy Conservator of Forests Sivarambabu M said the department has stopped the work. "We verified the information and took action to stop the work. The violation pertains to lack of necessary permission to take up the works in the ESZ. We have intimated the officials to take all the necessary clearances before proceeding with the work," it said.

Forest officials said the works were taken up due to a landslide in the Hulikal Ghat necessitating emergency measures. "However, we have still directed the project proponent to get the clearance. The work is being taken up in a reserved forest and also ESZ. So, forest clearance and permission by the ESZ monitoring committee are necessary," the official said.

Segmentation of projects

Meanwhile, Green Lives questioned the segmentation of projects related to SH-52. "PWD appears to have deliberately segmented a single stretch into multiple projects (from chainage Kms.36 to kms.43.05 for around 7 kms length) to avoid statutory scrutiny. Administrative and financial sanctions were granted nearly a year earlier, indicating prior intent to proceed without wildlife and forest clearances unless challenged," it said, pointing to a letter written to the Sagar DCF.

Hands-on workshop on public speaking

BENGALURU, DHNS: Toastmasters Speechcraft will conduct a seven-week hands-on workshop on public speaking and communication. The workshop will be held from March 8 at Daffodils Toastmasters Club, Malleswaram.

For details contact: +91-9119422950/+91-9513850101. The workshop cultivates confident speakers and guides them in goal setting, according to a media release.

State top cop abolishes colonial-era orderly system

Officers to get revised allowance in lieu of withdrawn men

BENGALURU, DHNS:

State police chief M A Saleem has issued an order abolishing the colonial-era orderly system, under which constables were attached to senior officers to perform non-policing duties like cooking, cleaning, dropping children to school and other household work.

The move aims to end the long-standing practice of deploying police personnel as personal attendants and instead utilise them for core policing duties. The decision follows a government order revising the existing orderly system in the police department.

As part of implementing the order, the department has proposed the creation of 373 orderly posts to replace police personnel who were earlier assigned to such duties.

A proposal was submitted through official correspondence to create these posts and to revise the allowance that will be paid in place of the withdrawn orderly personnel.

According to the proposal, the restructuring will cover 2,447 posts across various ranks in the police department.

These include officers from the ranks of Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), Director Generals (DG), Additional Directors General of Police (ADGP), Inspectors General of Police (IGPs), Deputy Inspectors General (DIGs), Superintendents of Police (SPs), Commandants, Assistant Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Police and Police Inspectors.

Under the revised system, 373 orderly personnel will continue, while 3,320 police personnel currently deployed as orderlies will be discontinued and reassigned for policing duties. In place of the orderlies, officers will be provided with a monthly allowance depending on their rank.

The proposed allowance structure includes Rs 8,000 per month for DG-rank officers, Rs 6,000 for ADGPs, Rs 5,000 for IGPs, Rs 3,000 for DIGs/SPs/Commandants, and Rs 2,000 for ASPs, DySPs/Assistant Commandants and Police Inspectors ranks.

The order also specifies that certain senior officers may be provided limited staff support such as cooks and attendants.

SHRI HINGULAMBIKA EDUCATION SOCIETY'S
AYURVEDIC MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, Bhavsar Nagar, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi-585106 Karnataka

No. SHES.AMC/APT/2026-2027 DATE: 25/02/2026

WANTED

SL. NO.	DEPARTMENT	DESIGNATION
1	Kriya Shareera	Lecturer/Assistant Professor
2	Rasa-Shastra Evam Bhaisajya Kalpana	Lecturer/Assistant Professor

Interested Eligible candidates are informed to send their resume to shesamc@gmail.com or 9480576874
Salary negotiable as per experience.

Sd/- Principal
SHES'S AMC KALABURGI.
9480576874

Sd/- President
SHES'S AMC KALABURGI.
9480576874

Apts breaking free from tanker water

Ahead of summer, a report flags groundwater shortages in 65 wards

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Some apartment complexes in Bengaluru have been recharging groundwater to become more water-secure during summer, reduce their dependence on tanker water and lower water bills.

A new AI-based analysis of the city's groundwater data has predicted water shortages in 65 wards. These include Hebbal, Sanjaynagar, Jalahalli, Peenya, Horamavu, Ramamurthynagar, Koramangala, Nagarabhavi, Vijayanagar and Kengeri. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board partnered with the Indian Institute of Science for the study.

Responding to the report, water conservationist S Vishwanath said the priority should be to ensure that every household in Bengaluru is connected to the piped water network. "Once that happens, groundwater can become a supplement," he said. He added that some large gated communities have managed to improve the water table, as they have more open land and rooftop areas for rainwater harvesting.

To replenish groundwater, a recharge well with a silt trap was built last year at Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Varthur.

Self-sufficient

Century Saras, an apartment complex of 128 flats in Yelahanka New Town, does not have a piped water connection. Yet it does not rely on tanker water, thanks to the water conservation measures the apartment has followed since residents began moving in around 2016, says Satish Mallya, resident and president of the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF).

In 2021, the apartment received a commendation certificate as a 'Water Donor' from World of Water, Bengaluru, for saving about one crore litres of water annually for the city. This includes around 72 lakh litres through its sewage treatment plant, 18 lakh litres through aerators, and 12 lakh litres through rainwater harvesting (RWH). And last year, the Karnataka government recognised its sustainability efforts.

"We have eight recharge wells, each about 20 metres deep. During the rains, water from the terrace catchment area of one block is diverted into rainwater harvesting tanks. This meets nearly three months of our water requirement," says Mallya. The RWH system saves residents about Rs 1 lakh a year that would otherwise be spent on tanker water. Currently, they have an open well, two functioning borewells, and two dried-up borewells that are being rejuvenated.

Fewer tankers

Until four years ago, Sobha City, a complex of 1,958 apartments on Thanisandra Main Road, depended on more than 20 water tankers a day. Today that number has come down to five or six. The change began when the complex started digging recharge wells (30x6 ft) across its 36-acre campus to improve the groundwater table, says apartment association president C Subramanyam. They now have about 25 recharge wells, including two in each of its six blocks, built at a cost of over Rs 30 lakh. "Last year alone we added 19 wells. Earlier we had dug five, but the results were slow," he says.

Residents will assess how the system performs this summer and expand their recharge network if needed. "It also helps that we have large open green spaces where rainwater naturally percolates into the ground," he adds.

Higher borewell yields

Prestige Lakeside Habitat, a complex of 3,500 flats and 270 villas along Whitefield-Sarjapur Road, was spending between Rs 33 lakh and Rs 50 lakh a month on tanker water in 2024. The campus has 24 borewells, but only five were working, meeting just 15% of its water needs. Following a camera inspection by Biome Environmental Solutions, it was found that seven more borewells could be revived with basic intervention. Project manager Shivananda R S says, "We built four recharge wells, each four feet in diameter and about 40 feet deep, to help recharge these borewells. After a few spells of rain, the yield from four of them increased."

The apartment spent about Rs 12 lakh on the work and recovered the cost in less than four months as their tanker water dependency dropped. They plan to add more recharge wells to support the remaining borewells and the aquifer.

Saving on costs

House of Hiranandani in Devanahalli has around 600 flats, 200 villas and 167 cottages. The 73-acre campus has more than 60 recharge wells and eight borewells that go 900 to 1,000 feet deep.

A few years ago, on Biome's guidance, rooftop rainwater from one of the blocks was diverted into an existing sump. During the rainy months, this stored rainwater is treated and supplied to residents. This has reduced dependence on borewells and saved about Rs 12,000 a month in pumping costs. Overflow from the sump is channelled into stormwater drains and recharge wells across the campus, helping replenish groundwater and sustain borewell yield. They now plan to bring four unused open wells back into use, shares Shivananda.

Strings attached: Puppet theatre is seeing a revival

Seasoned puppeteers in Bengaluru are reporting an increase in demand for shows and workshops

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The artform of puppetry is seeing a resurgence in Bengaluru. Puppeteers who have been practising the art for decades note that demand for shows and workshops has increased, as has the number of artistes taking it up.

In January this year, Dhaatu Puppet Theatre held their annual Dhaatu International Puppet Festival at Mandala Cultural Centre, Talaghattapura. Anupama Hoskere, director, shares that about 16 teams from across Karnataka participated in the event. "Earlier, we were lucky to get even five teams together," she explains.

M R Srinivas, director of Rangaputhali Puppeteers, Banashankari has also witnessed an increase in the number of shows his troupe does. "We have also been training more students. About 80 students are trained every year. Ten to 15 years ago, we would get less than 30 enrolments," he shares.

Rangaputhali also does experimental performances, where the stories are not based on epics. "We have done performances based on Ambedkar in the past," he says.

Traditional rod and string puppets made with wood are 2.5 to 3 feet in height and weigh 10-12 kg. Contemporary puppets, made with paper mache or sawdust weigh about 6-7 kg, and are easier to handle.

This has made it more appealing for schoolchildren to take up the art, he notes, and adds that they conduct puppet workshops in multiple schools. "Until five years ago, we were making 20 puppets a year. Now we make about 60-70 of the paper mache puppets based on demand," he tells *Metrolife*.

A string puppet performance at the Dhaatu International Puppet Festival which concluded in January.

Shorter courses

Anupama points out that there is a lot more awareness about puppetry and its various forms these days. "Sometimes we get called to malls to perform and we always draw a crowd. Bengalureans lap up all cultural events," she says. While one had to finish a 6- to 7-year course earlier, now courses are for a one-year duration. "I am not sure if one year of training is enough. So I am pushing for at least an 18-month course," she explains.

Currently Bengaluru has about five puppet troupes, who specialise in rod and string puppets. Shadow puppets, tarammayya bombe (finger puppets), chinni aata (hand puppets), keelu bombe (jointed puppets) and Yakshagana bombe are some of the other forms popular across Karnataka. "Each puppet is used for a different purpose. Finger puppets are used for entertainment and epic stories, for instance. Rod and string puppets, on the other hand, are used for a full theatre performance and involve dance, music and dialogues," she shares.

Contemporary themes

Puppetree was started by theatre artiste Anvitha Prasad in 2017. Her troupe performs about 4-5 shows a month. Puppetree specialises in marionette (string puppets) and bunraku. Bunraku is a form of Japanese puppetry where one puppet is controlled by three people and is performed over a tabletop. "We typically tackle contemporary issues like anxiety, stress or the importance of kindness towards animals. I felt Bengaluru needed a puppet theatre that focused on subjects that were not epics," shares Anvitha, who also conducts daily puppetry classes at a university.

Both Anvitha and Anupama have seen wider acceptance of the artform. However, Anupama believes that there is a need for a state-funded puppet theatre performance space in Bengaluru. "I think the city deserves a space dedicated solely to puppet theatre," she says.

WHERE TO LEARN
Dhaatu Puppet Theatre: 98861 93999
Rangaputhali Puppeteers: 99001 14664
Puppetree: 91136 09785

Music fest by kids with special needs

Ummeed — Chapter 3', a music festival organised by Matra Productions, is part of an inclusive music therapy and creative expression programme designed for children with autism, and visual and intellectual disabilities.

The initiative currently supports 30 individuals aged between 10 and 25.

The event is open to educators, therapists, and parents to witness how music can become a bridge for expression for individuals with special needs. The initiative focuses on helping participants with social interaction. "The festival is the culmination of a year-long training programme," says Sutirtha Mukherjee, organiser of Ummeed.

March 7, 5 pm, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road. For details, call 98862 38695.

Fest on love, justice and solidarity

A three-day festival will examine the idea of love through social, political, economic, legal, constitutional and media lenses. "In one of the lectures, activist Shivasundar will talk about how asking questions to the powerful is also an act of love," says Dadapeer Jyman, one of the curators of the Bangalore Love Festival.

Panel discussions will highlight the voices of women from marginalised communities, crisis interventions when couples face threats, and solidarity among movements championing feminism as well as Dalit, queer, sex worker and Muslim communities.

Theatrical and poetry performances will explore queer perspectives on masculinity, desire in ageing, and crimes against women. Rumi Harish will present khayal from a queer perspective.

Indian Sign Language interpreters will be available.

March 6 and 8, 4 pm, at Rangasthala Auditorium, M G Road, and March 7, 3 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free. For details, write to dadujyman.p@gmail.com

POPCORN

Lunch, uh?

Lokayukta officials landed up at a government official's house at 5 am. Yes, an unearthly hour for visitors, but a preferred time for surprise raids. Turns out he didn't open his doors for a good four hours. Don't know what excuses he eventually gave — slept late watching cricket, overwhelmed by office work, chest pain.... The poor raid team was trying to climb over the compound, railings and balcony. The official's name, by the way, is Sathyanarayana. His first name is truth.

EVENTS

Book launch
The launch of the book 'What They Don't Tell You About Marriage' by Yashodhara Lal, will be held on March 8, 7 pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Entry free. For details, call 96325 10126.

Gallery walk
Artist Asha Thadani will hold a guided gallery walk of her photo exhibition 'I to Eye: Shades of Humanity' at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road, on March 8, 4.30 pm. Check @ngma_bengaluru on Instagram.

Play on repentance
'Traasadi', a play by Manav Kaul about losing one's mother, will be staged on March 6 (7.30 pm) and March 7 and 8 (3.30 pm and 7.30 pm) at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Tickets online.

B'luru startup's smart mask tracks AQI in real time

The prototype can also monitor body posture and temperature, and send an SOS alert

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A Bengaluru startup's smart face mask drew attention online on Wednesday after tech influencer Caleb posted a video on X showing how it provides real-time pollution readings.

The working prototype, Securio, has been developed by city-based deep-tech startup Adevair Technologies. AI and IoT developer Shailesh Kachi, who founded the company in 2019, says the idea for the mask came in October 2024. "This was after reports said people in Delhi could lose around 10 years of life expectancy due to pollution. That really struck me because my family lives there."

According to the World Health Organization, air pollution is linked to around seven million premature deaths worldwide each year, he notes. "While governments work on large-scale solutions, we wanted to see what could be done at a personal level," he adds.

Kachi developed the concept soon after and filed for a patent in December 2024. After several rounds of research, component selection, and testing, the prototype was completed in December 2025.

What does it do?

The Bluetooth-enabled mask measures air quality index (AQI) in real time. It has a five-layer filtration system designed to last up to 300 hours, depending on pollution exposure. The filter is replaceable. "It also tracks body temperature and posture through built-in sensors. A gesture-based SOS feature lets users trigger an alert by nodding their head, sending their live location to emergency contacts for up to an hour," he says.

Over the past six weeks, Kachi has tested the mask across Bengaluru, including HSR Layout, Koramangala, Whitefield and Hebbal. "In some places we saw readings rise to 350 during heavy traffic. The HSR Layout junction near Silk Board often shows unexpectedly high levels (110 to 248)," he says.

Around 700 people have joined a wait list over the past three months. He adds, "About 70 of those sign-ups came in the 24 hours after Caleb's post on X." Kachi says future versions will include breath analysis for illness detection, alcohol sensing and ECG monitoring.

The 3D-printed prototype currently weighs 150 gm, but Kachi is working on a lighter version for the market which will be made using soft silicone.

Set to release by August, the mask is available in matte black and Arctic white. *Go to adevair.com*

A screengrab from the video Caleb posted on X shows Shailesh Kachi wearing the mask alongside AQI readings from its app.

CITY MIX

Showcase of sustainable practices

Parisara Habba, an event showcasing water conservation and management practices, will be held on March 10, 10 am to 6 pm, at Indira Canteen, Sonnappanahalli. It will highlight how Devanahalli and Hunasamaranahalli towns in north Bengaluru experienced less water stress than many other areas last summer. The model reduces dependence on deep borewells and instead uses water from shallow aquifers, which are recharged faster by treated wastewater pumped into nearby lakes.

Entry free. Contact 70222 95867.

Book on birds in the city

Birds of Bengaluru will be the focus of a conversation on March 7, 10.30 am, at The Bangalore Room, Indiranagar. The occasion is the launch of Anvita Trivedi's book 'Chuk-chukiya'. In conversation with author Roopa Pai, Anvita will discuss what makes Bengaluru a good habitat for wildlife.

Entry free. For details, call 88615 99544.

What's lined up for Women's Day

Events include a run, and theatre and musical performances

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

With Women's Day falling on Sunday, the weekend is packed with interesting events geared towards women.

5k run

The New Balance Run Club, a running club, is organising a 'Weekend Run' on March 7. The 5 km all-women event will start at 6 am from the New Balance store in HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar. The run will end with a guided cool-down session. *To register, check @nbrc_india on Instagram.*

Theatre

Rotary Bangalore Aagneya, in partnership with Being Theatre and Shantiniketan Educational Institutions, presents the Hindi-English play 'Ladies Compartment', co-written and directed by Pooja Pandey Tripathi. The play will be staged at the institution's Bilekahalli campus on March 8, 7 pm. The drama revolves around an interaction between five women and a transgender woman from different backgrounds who cross paths one fateful night. The cast includes actors Kalyani Menon, Pooja Pandey Tripathi and Usha Rao, among others. *Tickets online. Call 79757 27121.*

'Ladies Compartment' is a Hindi-English play about five women and a transgender woman. (Right) The play 'What She Said' is about women from the 'Ramayana'.

Madari Productions and director Snehil Basoya will present their Hindi-English play 'Dirty Biryani' at Vyoma Artspace, J P Nagar, on March 8, 3 pm. The drama comedy, written by Somya Tewari, celebrates womanhood through three eccentric characters, Shabana, Smita and Deepti, whose chance meeting blossoms into love and camaraderie. *Tickets online. Call 97739 05046.*

Discussions, music

The Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, is organising panel discussions and cultural performances on March 8, 11 am to 8.30 pm. This includes 'Left Off the Blueprint', a conversation on inclusive healthcare, technology and urban design; 'The Long Game: Opportunity, Excellence and Institutional Power', on women leaders in science, technology, enterprise and industry; and 'Her Labour, Her Law', on the lives of domestic workers in Karnataka.

Performances include 'What She Said', a theatre act on six women from the 'Ramayana', and the musical event 'Celebrating Women Composers' by the all-women ensemble 'Sthree Thaal Tharang'. *To register, check bangaloreinternationalcentre.org*

KIA ranked 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport has been ranked the 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally' at the 2025 Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards.

The recognition comes for the fourth consecutive year.

The ASQ programme by ACI is a benchmark for airport customer experience, capturing passenger satisfaction through globally standardised in-journey surveys. The awards recognise airports that consistently deliver strong performance across parameters such as service, comfort, convenience and cleanliness.

In 2025, the airport saw improvements in WiFi connectivity, flight display on carousel screens, availability of carts and trolleys, comfort of waiting areas and walking distance inside the terminal, a statement by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said.

The 'Overall Satisfaction' rating at the airport rose from 4.98 in 2024 to 5.00 in 2025.

Holi special train to Bikaner

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway will run a special train between Yeshwantpur and Bikaner for passengers returning after Holi.

Train number 06543 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 7 am on March 11, 18 and 25 (Wednesdays) and reach Bikaner at 3 pm on Fridays.

In the return direction, train number 06544 will depart from Bikaner at 1 am on March 14, 21 and 28 (Saturdays) and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 4 am on Sundays.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

U Bhoopati Memorial Trust: Talk on overcoming exam fear by Vasundhara Bhoopati, CR Chandrashekhar and Lata Krishnappa; Government Highschool, Palace Guttahalli; 2 pm.

Vedya Samskruti School: Talk on the responsibility of parentage by Gururaja Karajagi; School premises, 16th Cross, Vyalikaval; 6 pm.

CULTURAL

Bengaluru Gayana Samaja: Ekatvam Holi music fest by Keertan Holla and Srihari Kulakarni; Gayana Samaja premises; 5 pm.

Yakshakala Academy: 'Babhruvahana Kalaga'-yakshagana recital; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Girinagara Sangita Sabha: Devotional music by MR Satyanarayana and discourse by Kabbinale Vasanta Bhardwaj; Aksharam Hall, Girinagar 2nd Stage; from 4.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.5°C
Minimum	19.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	37%
Sunset (Mar 6)	6:29 pm
Sunrise (Mar 7)	6:33 am
Moonrise	8:07 pm
Moonset	7:35 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that **Mr.Santosh Kumar** S/o Mr.V.Muniraju, aged about 39 years, residing at #366, 4th main, 9th cross RHCS layout, Annapoorneshwary nagar Bangalore-560091, is intending to purchase the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from Mr.Vinay Bafna, S/o Sri.Dhanraj Bafna, residing at No.16, 4th cross, Kumar Park west, Bangalore, which was earlier allotted to Binnypet Residence Service Association from BDA.

All persons having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, inheritance, easement, litigation, acquisition proceedings or any other encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property by way of sale, gift, mortgage, inheritance, possession, court decree or otherwise are hereby required to notify the same in writing, with documentary proof, to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections/claims are received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that the property is free from all encumbrances and claims and the proposed purchaser shall proceed with the purchase. Any claim made thereafter shall not bind the purchaser.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.1461/A, Situated at Sir.M.Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Bangalore, and bounded on :

East by : Site No. 1462
West by : Site No. 1461
North by : Site No. 1487/A
South by : Road

Measuring : East to West : 15.00 mtrs and North to South : 24.00 mtrs, Totally measuring 360 Sq.mtrs.

Advocate Name: DWARAKANATH ABAKARI
Address : No.4, G Floor, 1st block, KHB complex, 18th cross, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560 040
Contact No:9880505533 / 9880665711

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Corrigendum-1 Against open Tender Notice No.S&T/Works/11-2026

Name of work: Rehabilitation of VRLA type batteries of various UPS from Salt Lake sector V to Phoolbagan including OCC and DCC in Green Line (Phase-I) of Metro Railway, Kolkata along with some allied works in Green Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata under SSE/Sig/CPD/IC. Item modified : NIT Header : Field Name : Tender Closing Date & Time : Existing Date & Time : 05.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Modified Date & Time : 18.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** For details visit : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Asstt. Signal & Telecom Engineer/E-W

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Electrical (General) Branch OPEN TENDER

The Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical General), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites applications on prescribed tender form for the following works- **NIT No.**: NIT No. JBP-L-T-No-42-2025R, did 18.02.2026, **Name of work with location :** Provision of Air Conditioning Plant in (i) CORE Building and (ii) GM Building & PREM Building, **Approx cost of the work (In Rs.) :** 65414465.26, **Cost of tender form (In Rs.) :**0.00, **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased :** Sr.DEE/Genl/Jabalpur, **Earnest money (In Rs.) :** Rs 477100.00, **Completion period (In years) :** 06 Month **Date & Time for submission of tender (Up to 15.00 hrs. on) :** 12/03/2026, **Date & Time for opening of tender (at 15.30 hrs. on) :** 12/03/2026, **NIT No.**: NIT No. JBP-L-T-No-61-2025, dtd 23.02.2026, **Name of work with location** : Electrical work at (i) Replacement of indoor & outdoor gears of existing class. "C" RTZ station with EI along with S&T service building on age cum-condition basis (ii) Augmentation and Upgradation of facilities at PCSTE Conference Hall and Zonal Disaster Room at HQ/WCR and (iii) Provision of IBS between HDU-NMWP station on double line including third line, **Approx cost of the work (In Rs.) :** Rs. 1818001.74, **Cost of tender form (In Rs.) :**0.00, **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased :** Sr.DEE/Genl./Jabalpur, **Earnest money (In Rs.) :** Rs. 36400.00, **Completion period (In years) :** 06 Month, **Date & Time for submission of tender (Up to 15.00 hrs. on) :** 17/03/2026, **Date & Time for opening of tender (at 15.30 hrs. on) :** 17/03/2025, Complete details of tender notice available on the Railway website https://ireps.gov.in/. Complete tender form can also be down loaded from above website.

(Sd.)
Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer (Genl.)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of work:** "Through Rail renewal for Ballastless track at Metro Railway Kolkata in UP & DN Line from KNAP (ex) Km (-) 0.9 to KKVS (in) Km 25.33 with 60 Kg new Rail including allied works of Metro Railway, Kolkata." **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 4,20,05,619.84, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,60,000, **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 31.03.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2565-2026-(Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are investigating the title of the landowners (collectively **"Owners"**) of land parcels totally admeasuring 12.20 acres both situated at Beluru Basavanahalli Village, Somwarpet Hobli, Somwarpet Taluk, Kodagu District, more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or against the Owners must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within **seven (7) days** of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owners with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the redeemed sagu lands detailed below both situated at **Beluru Basavanahalli Village, Somwarpet Hobli, Somwarpet Taluk, Kodagu District:**

Sl No.	Survey No.	Extent (Acres)	Owner/s	Boundaries
1	52/3	5.80	(i) I.K. Muddappa son of I.P. Kalappa and (ii) K. Navya Devaiah wife of I. K. Mudappa Both residing at No. 37, Kaveri 1st Main, 4th Stage,T.K. Layout, Mysore 9.	East: Survey No. 53 West: Survey Nos. 2/14 and 52/1 North: Survey Nos. 2/36, 51/2 and 2/63. South: Survey No. 52/2
2	2/72	6.40	Navya Devaiah wife of Muddappa I.K. (daughter of K.A. Devaiah) residing at #37, Cauvery, 1st Main 4th Stage, T.K. Layout, Mysore, Saraswathipuram, Mysore-570009.	East: Survey No. 2/14 West: Survey No. 2/63 North: Village Road South: Survey Nos. 2/14, 53, 52/2.

MALINI RAJU
AZB & Partners
Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052
Email: malini.raju@azbpartners.com Tel: + 91-8042400500
Date: 06.03.2026 Place: Bengaluru

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/SKELLA/08/2025-26

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम (कल्याण विभाग)	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला अन्तर्गत चाण्डिल प्रखण्ड के कपाली में बाग–ए–आयशा, ग्राम–कमरगोड़ा नियर हनुमान मंदिर में 50 शैय्या अल्पसंख्यक छात्रावास भवन निर्माण कार्य।	2,66,57,400.00	5,33,200.00	10000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 12.03.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 12.03.2026 से दिनांक 19.03.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 24.03.2026 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9304896913 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. यह निविदा परियोजना निदेशक, आई0टी0डी0ए0, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ के ज्ञापांक 2533/I.T.D.A, दिनांक 17.06.2025 एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग का ज्ञापांक–721, दिनांक 16.03.2024 के शर्त्तों/बंधेजों से आच्छादित होगी।
11. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला

PR.NO.374131 Rural Development(25-26):D

National Council of Science Museums

Ministry of Culture Government of India
33, Block – GN, Sector – V, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata – 700 091

Recruitment of "Exhibition Officer - B" (Advt. No. 06/2026)

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous scientific organization under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, invites applications for the following post:

Name of the post	Scale of Pay & Pay Matrix Level	No of Post	Age Limit
Exhibition Officer - B	Level-10 of 7th CPC (Rs.56100-177500/-)	01 no. [Unreserved]	35 Years (Relaxable as per extant rules of GoI)

The last date of receipt of completed applications is **31.03.2026.**
For details of advertisement and submission of online application, please visit our website: https://ncsm.gov.in/notice/career#

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client, intends to enter into certain transaction in respect of an immovable property situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk and Bengaluru District, which is more particularly described in the **"Schedule"** hereunder and herein after referred to as the**"Schedule Property"** with its present owner, who has represented to my client theyare the absolute owners of the Schedule Property having unrestricted right of alienation over the same. The ownershave further represented to my client that Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within **seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Survey No.536 measuring 09 Acres 16 Guntas, situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk and Bengaluru Districtand is bounded as follows:

East by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.544, 545 and 537;
West by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.544, 545 and 537;
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.384; and
South by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.532 and 537.

Akhilesh S Advocate
No.79, Sathyanarayana,H. B. C. S, 2nd Stage, 3rd Cross, Mahalakshmipuram Post,Bangalore - 560 086. Email:- akhileshsridhar1994@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/34 Dated:26-02-2026

.	Item of Work	Approx. Value
	Provision of Anti monkey climbing device in monkey prone area to stop climbing monkeys on OHE masts/structures in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 52,56,677.75

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/42 Dated:26-02-2026

.	Item of Work	Approx. Value
	[i] OHE modifications in connection with replacing Low HT shelter of PF 7&8, provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platform entrance including granite flooring **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with Augmentation of AC Loco Trip Shed at Bengaluru. **[iii]** Provision of OHE for pit line No.1 at Bengaluru yard. **[iv]** Conversion of tramway OHE to conventional at Bengaluru yard **[v]** BIDOHE modifications in connection with provision of proposed Rd-06 (Spur Line of 686m) with shunting neck of 650m towards Bengaluru end duly dismantling existing Goods unloading platform adjacent to Rd-5 **[vi]** OHE modification in connection with proposed extension of PF-1 and PF-2 for a length of 150 mtrs and 5 mtr width at Krishnadevaraya Halt station in Bengaluru-Yeliyur section **[vii]** OHE Modification of shifting Y TSS down line PTFE	Rs. 3,48,87,904.24

Last date for submission of bids for above Tenders:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20-03-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/955/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /TRD / Bengaluru**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: Repair and rehabilitation Work at different buildings (Officer's Quarter, GM Bungalow, Staff Quarter etc.) of South Section of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** Rs.3,41,80,634.41, **Earnest Money:** Rs.3,20,900.00, **Completion Period:** 9 Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 02.04.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in**, Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2562-2026 (Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Gem Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/7297006; **Dated:** 26-02-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of work :** Custom Bid for Services - Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for hardware of Parcel Management Systems over Alipurduar Division. **Estimated Bid Value:** ₹12,56,671/-; **EMD Amount**: ₹25,200/-; Bid End Date/Time: At **20:00** hrs. and **opening** of Bid at **20:30** hrs. on **21-03-2026**. For complete information please visit in website **http://www.gem.gov.in**.

Sr. DCM, Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-4 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/133/2025 dated: 29.07.2025

Item of Work : RFP for Construction of New Broad-Gauge line including Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication works between Jumlapur Road (Exel) Ch: 75400 and Gurgunta (incl) Ch: 134950 (59.55 km) under GADAG-WADI New line Project on EPC Mode. (Tender Ref. No. JUMLAPUR-GURGUNTA-EPC)

Approximate Value Rs.	
Existing	**Modified**
964,51,54,197/-	982,43,51,712/-
Date of Closing	
Existing	**Modified**
17.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	27.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Engineer/CN/Work
PUB/959/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru Cantt.**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

National Council of Science Museums

Ministry of Culture Government of India
33, Block – GN, Sector – V, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata – 700 091

Recruitment of "Security & Maintenance Officer (SMO)" (Advt. No. 05/2026)

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous scientific organization under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, invites applications for the following post:

Name of the post	Scale of Pay & Pay Matrix Level	No of Posts	Age Limit
Security & Maintenance Officer (SMO)	Level-7 of 7th CPC (Rs.44900-142400/-)	02 nos. [01 (OBC)] [01 (UR)]	45 Years (Relaxable as per extant rules of GoI)

The last date of receipt of completed applications is **31.03.2026.**
For details of advertisement and submission of application, please visit our website: https://ncsm.gov.in/notice/career#

NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Bagwani Bhawan, 47, Pankha Road Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110 058 Phones:011-28524150 / 2852221 / 28525129
E: mail: delhi@nhrdf.com visit us at www.nhrdf.org

Ref.No: NHRDF/HO/Tender/AD-51/2025-26/4611 **Dated 18/02/26**

NOTICE INVITING FOR

Engagement of Agency for Design, Development, Implementation & Maintenance of NHRDF Seed Portal and Mobile Application

National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), New Delhi, invites bids in sealed covers from eligible, reputed and experienced agencies for design, development, implementation and maintenance of an integrated Seed Portal and Mobile Application for digitalizing all the activities related to Seed Production, Processing, Storage, Transportation, Inventory Management, Sales & Distribution.

The details of work proposed for "NHRDF Seed Portal and Mobile Application Development" and details of terms & conditions can be downloaded from our websites www.nhrdf.org .

The last date of submission of quotations to above address will be 18/03/2026 till 5.00 PM.

The quotations will be opened on 19/03/2026 at 11.00 AM. NHRDF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Joint Director (Horticulture)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(Tiruchchirappalli Division)

E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-39, 40, 41 & 42-2025-2026 Dt.03.03.2026

For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following work **up to 14.00 hrs on 27.03.2026**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1.	T-SG-36-I-39-2025-2026	Provision of Integrated Access Device (IAD) and Optic Fiber Cable (OFC) from OFC hut to Switching stations in left over areas at VM-CUPJ-MV-TJ, MV-TVR & VRI-CUPJ sections over TPJ Division.
2.	T-SG-36-I-40-2025-2026	Provision of Integrated Access Device (IAD) and Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) from OFC hut to Switching stations in left over areas of TP-TPJ-TJ-TVR-KIK & VM-KPD sections over TPJ Division.
3.	T-SG-36-I-41-2025-2026	Provision of shunting neck at Ariyalur station by extending the overrun line at road No.6 at VRI end.
4.	T-SG-36-I-42-2025-2026	S&T work in connection with provision of 12 nos of passenger lifts, 6 nos of passenger escalators under ABSS and provision of FOB at VRI junction.

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Validity Offer	Date and Time of Closing	Period of Completion in months
1.	6.04 Crores	4,52,100/-	60 Days	27.03.2026 @14:00 Hrs	9 Months
2.	8.14 Crores	5,57,300/-	60 Days	27.03.2026 @14:00 Hrs	9 Months
3.	1.23 Crores	2,11,600/-	60 Days	27.03.2026 @14:00 Hrs	9 Months
4.	2.49 Crores	2,74,700/-	60 Days	27.03.2026 @14:00 Hrs	9 Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.

The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI

Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO), LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC) CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,

80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 05.03.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work and NIT No. & Date	**Modification in store office at LPSC(B) campus, Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2039/C/MI/037/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026**
Estimated Amount	**₹ 15.46 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**03 months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:30 Hrs on 05.03.2026 to 15.03.2026 till 23:59 Hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From: 20.00 Hrs on 05.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 till 10.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time to reply to Bid clarifications	**17.03.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**18.03.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opending of tenders.	**18.03.2026 up to 11.30 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit	**₹ 30,920/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC (B)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.), Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender for the following works: **Sl. No.; Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value & EMD** respectively : **(1); CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-65;** Supply, stacking & loading into any type of Railway Wagons of hard stone machine crushed track ballast of 50mm gauge for 70000 cum ballast depot at Birmitrapur (BRMP) depot from any quarry under jurisdiction of Chakradharpur Division; ₹ 12,26,70,800.00; ₹ 7,63,400.00; **(2); CKP-SOUTH-25-26-33;** Construction of drain for of improvement drainage system in Banspani yard under jurisdiction of ADEN/ Dangoaposi; ₹ 2,16,83,902.65; ₹ 2,58,400.00; **Cost of Tender form :** ₹ 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 & 2); **Date of opening :** 24/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 1) & 23/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 2). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tender can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:-** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority - Rly. Bd.'s letter No.2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd.16.07.2020).

(PR-1262)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/172/2026 Dated: 27.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

SN	Item of work	Approx. value
1	RFP for Construction	₹782,76,56,049/-

of New Broad Gauge Line between Chainage 90000 and Chainage 130375 (40.375 km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical General Services between Hiriyur (Incl.) & Palavvanahalli (Incl.) stations and Extension of various bridges (Civil works) between Palavvanahalli (Exel.) & Chitradurga (Exel) stations (Chainage 130375 to Chainage 140490 (10.115 km)) in Tumkur-Chitradurga Davangere New Line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-DVG-EPC-05)**

Date of Closing of tender: **13.05.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/
PUB/961/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru Cantt.**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

COME UPDATE YOUR HOME & INTERIORS!

HOME FURNITURE EXPO

SALE • OFFERS • DISCOUNTS

LOCATE US

6 | 7 | 8 MARCH 2026

TRIPURAVASINI PALACE GROUND
NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU

OPENS TODAY
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM

BIGGEST SAVING SALE

• LIVING ROOM SET • DINING SET • BEDROOM SET • HOME DECOR PRODUCTS • ARTIFACTS • OUTDOOR FURNITURE
• RECLINER SOFA SETS • INDONESIA FURNITURE • CARPET & CUSHIONS • MASSAGE CHAIR • CURTAINS & MUCH MORE...

www.iadsandevents.com exhibitions_iadsnevents iadsnevents **ENTRY FREE** +91 93425 77908

AN EVENT BY iads & events COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Private bus operators form new association

BENGALURU, DHNS: Private bus operators in Karnataka have come together to form a new association to address the recent mishaps involving overnight bus travel.

The new body, called the Karnataka Bus Operators Association (KBOA), was launched by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday.

Headed by Sunil Sharma, proprietor of Sharma Transports, the association currently has about 185 bus operators as members. "The recent spate of accidents has tainted the image of bus operators in the state. We are the low-hanging fruit that has had to face a majority of the criticism. When in reality, the problem lies deep within the system. So far, people have forgotten to question the bus manufacturers whose vehicles have repeatedly been involved in accidents. We aim to bring such matters to the forefront through our association, and also weed out the bad elements with our fraternity," he said. Rajesh Venkat, owner of Rajesh Transports is secretary of the association.

The association has also urged both the state and central governments to reduce road tax in Karnataka. "Currently, Karnataka has one of the highest road taxes in the entire country. As a result, many operators are getting their vehicles registered in other states, flouting safety norms, and continue to operate within the state," he added.

Case against youths for playing Holi by wearing burqa

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Five young men have been booked on the charges of hurting communal sentiments by wearing burqa and playing with colours during the Holi festival at Nimbarga in Aland taluk, Kalaburagi district, on Wednesday.

A case has been registered by the Nimbarga police station. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media, evoking criticism from the members of the public.

The video shows a burqa-clad youth dancing in various poses, pretending to be pregnant and misbehaving with a person wearing a hijab and taking pictures.

Sameer Avati, a resident of MSK Mill area of Kalaburagi city, had lodged a complaint against all five youths.

Safety norms: Deadline for private buses extended till March 31

Inspections immediately after last date: Minister

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last month, the Transport Department issued a directive calling for heightened safety measures in the light of recent fatal accidents, particularly involving sleeper buses.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has announced a month-long extension in the deadline for compliance with safety measures for both regular and sleeper buses.

Last month, the Transport Department issued a directive calling for heightened safety measures in the light of recent fatal accidents, particularly involving sleeper buses.

The department had initially set a February 28 deadline. However, private bus associations wrote to the minister seeking an extension citing a delay in the supply of Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS) and long queues at bodybuilding workshops in Bengaluru.

Due to a sudden rise in demand for the FDSS, the supplier in India also requested two to three months' time to fulfil orders in Karnataka.

"Multiple operators reached out to me about their plight. Given genuine concerns about the low supply from manufacturers, I have decided to extend the deadline by a month. But after March 31, we won't be waiting a day longer, and the inspections will begin immediately. We are going to be strict with the inspection," Reddy told *DH*. Those not complying with safety norms will face strict action, he added.

Private bus operators have been directed to remove the partition door behind the driver in all sleeper buses, install fire extinguishers of at least 10 kg in all sleeper buses, and display a design layout drawing clearly indicating emergency exists, the location of fire extinguishers and roof hatches, in a place easily visible and readable to passengers in all buses, among other safety measures.

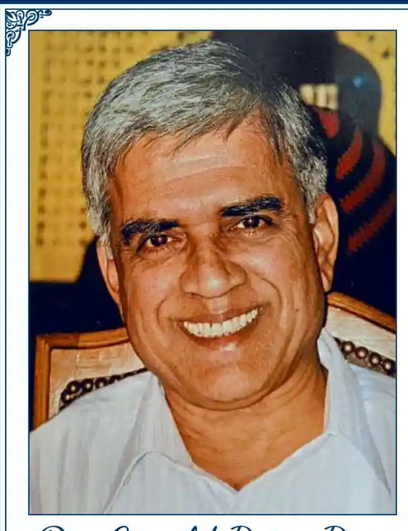
Passengers wary of sleeper buses

With summer vacations right around the corner, some citizens are unsure about booking sleeper buses for their overnight travels.

Sreesha S, an engineering student, has strict instructions from her parents to avoid sleeper buses. "I am from Mangaluru, and usually when I travel back home, I have always opted for sleeper buses as they are comfortable and there is privacy. But after hearing all the news about recent bus fires, my parents have instructed me not to travel in overnight buses, especially sleeper buses, and opt for trains," she said.

Passengers are also requesting bus operators to be upfront about the bus models and other modifications. "In India, travelling on buses for short overnight journeys is inevitable. In such a situation, it would help if bus operators are transparent and display details, such as vehicle's age and fitness certificate. With videos about fake modified buses circulating on social media, people are unsure about who to trust," said Subhash Kashyap, a corporate employee.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form



7th March 2026, Saturday,
11:30 am onwards

Join us in paying respect to Dr. Gerry Pais at Sankalpa, 101, A G Block, N R Mohalla, Mysuru

3 pm - Funeral Mass

at Catholic Cemetery, Gandhi Nagar, Mysuru

RSVP : 9643773022 9869585535

Dr. Gerald Peter Pais
August 21, 1940 - March 3, 2026

SHRADDANJALI

Shri Benne Prahlada Rao
Shathaayushi
07-11-1923 - 22-02-2026
Founder
Benson Co
Flavours & Fragrances
Chamarajpet and Jigani
Husband of Late
Smt. Kodihalli Lakshmi Prahlada Rao
Benne Ravindra
Benne Sudhindra
Auditors & Tax Advisors
Late Sri H.A. Subramanian
Late Sri H.A. Balasubramaniam
Sudarshan Sharma
Harshavardhan Sharma
Team Benson
Perfumerr Gandhibazaar

50TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

SHRI B. RAMA RAO
09-07-1914 - 06-03-1976
"Fifty years have rolled by, but the immaculate presence is as green as ever. Our respectful homage to the immortal soul."
FOUNDER
M/s B. RAMA RAO & SONS JEWELLERS PVT LTD.
B.R. Suresh, B.R. Prakash, B.R. Krishna Prasad, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law & Family Members

Geo-tagged checks: mVahan app for commercial vehicle fitness certificates

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Transport Department has launched the geo-fencing–based mVahan Fitness Mobile App across all 66 RTOs to prevent irregularities in issuing fitness certificates (FCs) to commercial vehicles registered and operating in the state.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the system would eliminate the long-standing practice of issuing FCs without physically inspecting vehicles.

In Karnataka, over 30 lakh commercial vehicles are registered and operational. There have often been allegations of a lack of uniformity and transparency in the process of issuing vehicle FCs. On February 28, Bengaluru police registered an FIR against a now-retired senior motor vehicle inspector for issuing FCs to over 10,000 out-of-state vehicles without physical inspections.

The officer allegedly issued 'Form 38A' FCs to over 10,210 out-of-state vehicles through the Vahan software between August 1, 2025, and January 31, 01, 2026 — the last day of his service — without conducting physical inspections, the FIR noted. Reddy stated that under the mVahan Fitness Mobile Application, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), specific vehicle inspection locations have been geo-fenced for each RTO where vehicles must be physically examined.

Only after vehicles physically arrive at these designated locations will inspections be carried out as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and relevant rules. During the inspection, six photographs of the vehicle must be taken and uploaded to the app. The fitness certificate will be issued only after approval through the app.

FCs cannot be issued at any location other than the designated geo-fenced inspection areas.

Regional Transport Officers have been instructed to re-inspect at least 20% of vehicles that receive FCs.

This system has already been adopted in some other states, and it is now being implemented in Karnataka as well, the minister stated.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Industrial And Factory

AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Warehouse 160000 sqft Vijipura, Hoskote. Contact: 9341234288/ 9663224353/ 9845417487.

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Devanahalli

SITE SALE BIAAPA Approved E-Khatha Coffee Board Layout, Meesaganahalli, N/E/S Corner 30x80 Rs. 6000/ sft. 9731121679.

Industrial & Factory

Intl Airport Road

SALE RED CATEGORY Industrial Land & Building in AP Hindupur APIIC allotted Suitable for Chemical, Pharma, Organic, Fertilisers Manufacturers. 20000sft, 41500sft, 135000sft clear titles. Call Verna Developers, Barton Centre, MG Road. 9916310226.

EDUCATION CORNER Classifieds

BMS Educational Trust
BMS ACADEMY FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES
In Association with
Sri Chaitanya ACADEMY
Coaching Classes for JEE, NEET & KCET with PUC/10+2
JEE (Advance + Mains)
NEET (Medical Aspirants)
KCET (Engineering Aspirants)
FEATURES
-PUC Classes @ BMSCW (PU) Campus
-Experience Faculties for PUC & JEE / NEET / KCET
-Daily Practice Papers (DDPs) & Regular Assignments
-Weekly Tests & Monthly Grand Tests with Detailed Analysis
Contact us at:
BMS Academy for Professional Courses
BMS College of Engineering Campus, Bull Temple Rd, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-19
89717 36008 | 90365 10011
bmsiasacademy@gmail.com www.bmsacademy.org.in
LIMITED SEATS - ENROLL NOW! Your success is our commitment.

#SouthIndia's No. 1 Study Abroad Consultancy GLOBAL DEGREES
15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
19 BRANCHES IN INDIA
GLOBAL DEGREES EDUCATION & MORE
GLOBAL EDUCATION FAIR
BY GLOBAL DEGREES
USA | UK | AUS | NZ | GER | FRA | IRE | UAE | JPN
Interact with 125+ Universities from Worldwide
March 07 Saturday
TAJ MG ROAD, Bengaluru
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Special Info Sessions on Study in Japan, Dubai & Germany
Scan & Register
For More Details Contact : 9513040506

Flat

Sahakarnagar

FOR SALE Luxury 3 BHK Flats available Reputed Builders Eco Design, Ample Space, Vasthu Compliance, Security and Greenery, Tatanagar, Bangalore. Brokers Not Entertained. Contact +91 9980883973

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Events And Exhibitions

GR.EVENTS ATOZ Events Management, BANGALORE. Birthday`Party Weddings Naming Ceremony House`Warming Baby`Shower Flower Decoration Engagements Mehandi/Sangeet Ceremony Corporate Events. CALL:7411112565

Hotel & Restaurant

WELL FURNISHED Restaurant with well equipped kitchen & Everything in 1000 Sft area for SALE or RENT in Posh Vijaya Bank Layout, Bannerghatta Road. Lease Agreement Transferable. For Details Call: 9900001954

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

REQUIRES EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc., B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc., M.Ed to teach Science, English, Mathematics and Sanskrit. English fluency is must. Walk-in-Interview. Contact Max Muller Public School, Mahalakshmi Layout, B'lore-96. Ph: 23376050. E-mail- maxmullerpublicschool.mlayout@gmail.com

General

HIRING OFFICE ASSISTANTS & CLERKS (Textile Export Company) Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Mail: starsilks@gmail.com

Graphic Designers

REQUIRED GRAPHIC Designer- Photoshop/ Corel Draw/ Illustrator. Experience 1 Year or Above in around Rajajinagar Contact: 9902891620/ 9845579620

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I,SURESHA Residing`at No.69, 1st`Floor, 4th Cross Road,BOB Colony, 7th`Main Road, J.P.Nagar 7th`Phase, Bengaluru- 560078 have`changed my`Name`to SURESH S vide`Affidavit Dtd:05-03-2026 Sworn`Before Notary Ambreshappa, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NAVEEN CHAND HARPREETH, residing at No.48, "Srinivasa" RBI Colony, H.A.Farm Post, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru - 560024, have changed my name to HARPREETH NAVEEN CHAND vide affidavit dated 05-03-2026 before notary V. Srinivasa Reddy, Bengaluru.

I, CHHOGARAM R/at No.02 3rd Floor Mukkana Setty Ramanna Lane Balepet Cross Bangalore- 560023 have changed my name to CHHOGARAM PATEL vide affidavit dated: 5/3/2026 Before Notary Prakasha.C Bangalore.

I, NAGESHA B.B Residing at Bengaluru-96 have changed my name as NAGESH BAGUR BYATEGOWDA, vide affidavit dated 4/3/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NEHA VINOD SARAF D/o. Vinod R/a Flat No.1094, Anantashayan Galli, Belgaum, Hukeri, Karnataka-590001 Declared that NEHA VINOD SARAF, NEHA SARAF and NEHA V SARAF above mentioned Three Names are referred to one and the same person, i.e. myself only. Vide affidavit dated: 04.03.2026 before Notary Mohammed Hussain, K. Bangalore.

I, KOTRESHA K, changed my daughter's name from 'SAANVI UTTANGI KARANAM' to 'SAANVI UTTANGI' as per documents.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SAVITHA M N, residing at No.48, "Srinivasa" RBI Colony, H.A.Farm Post, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru - 560024, have changed my name to DEVIKA NAVEEN CHAND and my correct Date of Birth is 10-05-1973, vide affidavit dated 05-03-2026 before notary V. Srinivasa Reddy, Bengaluru.

I, JAYALAKSHMI resident 1378/79 10th main road SBI staff colony Hosahalli extension stage I Vijayanagar, BANGALORE -560040 have changed my name to JAYALAKSHMI RAMUSA vide affidavit dated: 5/3/2026 Before Notary Prakasha.C Bangalore

PROPERTY CORNER

INTL. AIRPORT ROAD
West Facing 45,000sft
East Facing 11,500sft
Converted Commercial Property For Sale.
Suitable For MNC Office, Showroom, Bank, College.
High Rental Income Building.
Just 2 Km Before Devanahalli Airport
On Good Terms,
Very High Appreciation.
7022446922

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

DH Classifieds More value, more impact
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
RECRUITMENT
BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS
*Conditions apply
www.dhclassifieds.com BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036 | +91 9731810277 | +91 9886213331 | 080- 45557163/164

16 tourists from Jagalur stranded in Dubai return

DAVANGERE, DHNS: As many as 48 Kannadigas, including 16 from Jagalur taluk, who were stranded in Dubai due to the ongoing war in West Asia, finally returned safely on Thursday, in a special flight.

The Air Arabia flight that left Sharjah at 9.45 pm on Wednesday landed in Kochi, Kerala at 3.30 am on Thursday. From there, they arrived in Bengaluru by Air India flight.

Fifty people from Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts, including 16 from Toranagatta village in Jagalur taluk, had gone on a trip to Dubai on February 23. Flights were cancelled on the night of February 28 when they were leaving from there.

Dubai Kannadigas had made arrangements for the stay of the stranded tourists. The tourists had appealed to the state and central governments for their safe return.

Losses across escoms almost double in two years

Govt bodies, especially those under RDPR dept, key defaulters

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The accumulated losses across the five escoms in the state have nearly doubled from Rs 17,559 crore to Rs 34,980 crore between 2022-23 to 2024-25, indicating that the power supply companies are reeling under heavy financial pressure.

With losses mounting, borrowings have also increased from Rs 32,211 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 47,994 crore.

The recent 14th annual integrated rating and ranking report released by the ministry of power also gave a poor rating for the escoms in the state with Bescom receiving a score of 16% on financial sustainability aspect.

Senior officials from Bescom said that most of the losses were mounting because of the increasing dues, especially from government bodies.

"The rural development and panchayat raj department is one of the biggest defaulters with pending dues running into thousands of crores of rupees. Since there are crucial institutions, we cannot disconnect power and the the pending dues results in losses," a senior Bescom official explained.

Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary (energy), said every escom was facing its own challenges.

"We are working on improving and I am sure that the losses will come down from this year," he said.

With losses mounting, borrowings of energy supply companies in Karnataka have also increased from Rs 32,211 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 47,994 crore. DH FILE PHOTO

Gupta said most of the borrowings were for new projects and there was nothing to worry about.

"The borrowings are mostly for capital expenditure for new projects and that's how most of the companies work. That should not be a matter of concern," he said.

The operational performance of escoms is good and has been improving and hence, the customers do not have to worry, he said.

"There have not been large scale power disruptions. The customers are being served well and escoms are meeting the power demand. New features are being introduced to serve customers," Gupta added.

Accumulated losses across 5 escoms
2022-23: Rs 17,559 cr
2023-24: Rs 26,109 cr
2024-25: Rs 34,980 cr

Borrowings across 5 escoms
2022-23: Rs 32,211 cr
2023-24: Rs 39,485 cr
2024-25: Rs 47,993 cr

Experts opined that there is a need for complete overhaul of the system.

"The Gurucharan committee report suggested a host of measures including setting up a holding committee to manage all five escoms. Financial discipline and overhaul of the system is crucial to ensure that the situation gets better," said M G Prabhakar, energy expert and former advisory council member, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

Formulate police verification system for live-in domestic workers: HC

Awards life sentence to 4 for murder of retd IISc prof, wife and son in 2009

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the state government to formulate a structured and mandatory police verification mechanism for workers residing within private premises.

The mechanism may resemble tenant verification systems, with simplified online registration portals accessible to the public, a division bench of Justices H P Sandesh and Venkatesh Naik T ruled.

The bench passed the direction while imposing life sentences on four accused persons, including two migrant labourers from West Bengal, in a triple murder case registered at the R T Nagar police station in 2009.

The murder of Purushotham Lal Sachdev, a retired professor at IISc, his wife and their son was solved 20 months after the incident.

"At the same time, widespread public awareness campaigns through print, electronic and social media platforms should be undertaken to educate citizens about safe hiring practices. However, while strengthening preventive mechanisms, it is equally important to ensure that migrant workers are not stigmatised as a class, since criminal liability is individual in nature and the constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India protect the dignity and equality of all persons. Thus, balanced judicial directions aimed at regulation, awareness, and accountability without discrimination, which would serve the larger interest of public safety and social justice," the bench said.

The bench noted the difficulty in tracing and securing the accused persons in the case. "In this regard, streamlining of the guidelines is very much required. Thus, we hereby direct the state government to take a call on this issue."

The case at hand

On February 15, 2009, Sachdev, his wife Rita and their son Deepak Sachdev alias Munna were murdered for gain by a gang of five persons.

The gang robbed a gold mangalya chain, two gold bangles, one gold ring, Rs 30,000 in cash, seven silk sarees, a wall clock and two silver lamps.

The suspects were Suchitra Haldar, a maid working in the deceased's house, her husband Dipak Haldar, both from South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Mohammad Sarbal alias Raj and Bidan Shikari, both from Bengaluru, and Pradeep Naskar, who is still absconding.

The murder came to light the next day and the police had to break open the main door to enter the house. Deepak's body was lying on the floor in the hall, while Rita's body was in another bedroom, which was also locked.

On further searching the house, police found Prof Sachdev's body stuffed in a suitcase below the cot in another bedroom.

The police managed to track down Suchitra and her husband only 20 months after the incident. Based on their information, Sarbal and Shikari were also arrested.

On February 29, 2016, the trial court acquitted four accused on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to prove the case.

On the state's appeal, the division bench noted that considering the witness testimonies, coupled with other circumstances, the prosecution had convincingly established the fact that the accused and deceased were found together in the deceased persons' house.

"It is further proved that the death of the deceased is homicidal due to strangulation. The manner in which the accused persons committed the murder, the place, the time of the incident and the sudden disappearance of accused numbers 1 and 2 (Suchitra and Dipak Haldar) from the house of the deceased persons are suggestive of the fact that the accused persons committed the murder by strangulation and thereafter, escaped from the house," the bench said.

It added that the recovery of gold and silver ornaments and seven silk sarees at the instance of the accused persons further establishes that the murder was committed by four accused for gain.

Include left-out reserve forest in Kappatagudda sanctuary: HC tells govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government to issue a notification by including the left-out areas of the Kappatagudda Reserve Forest as part of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) in Gadag district in terms with the resolution passed at the 11th meeting of the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife on January 9, 2019.

"Once the Board has taken a decision to declare the entire area of the reserve forest as KW Sanctuary and the State Government has acted upon the decision, in the absence of any reasoned decision restricting the area of the KW Sanctuary, the impugned notification confining the area of the KW Sanctuary contrary to the Board's decision, is ex facie arbitrary," a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha said while dismissing the petitions filed by Shivaganga Stone Crushing Industries and others.

The bench further said, "However, we clarify that if the State is of the view that it is necessary or expedient to exclude a part of the area from the boundaries of the KW Sanctuary, this order will not preclude the state Government to take a decision for altering the boundaries of the KW Sanctuary (which includes the left out portions of the reserve forest), albeit in accordance with the law."

Stone crushing industries

The petitioners held licences to operate stone crushing industries on lands located in the immediate vicinity of the 4th block of the Kappatagudda Reserve Forest. They challenged the May 16, 2019, notification, declaring the area measuring 244.15 sq. km. (24415.73 hectares), excluding enclosures, revenue villages, patta lands and revenue lands as on the date of publication of the notification, in Gadag, Mundaragi and Shirahatti Taluks of Gadag District as KWS.

The bench was informed that in January 9, 2019 resolution passed by the Board, the entire 300 sq kms of the reserve forest had been declared as a KWS. The bench noted that the petitioners' units fall within Eco-Sensitive Zone as notified under the June 4, 2025 and their stone crushing units cannot be permitted to operate.

However, while no relief was sought in respect of the left-out portions of the Kappatagudda forests in the KWS, the bench had invited the counsel to advance submissions in this regard. G S Kannur, senior counsel appearing for the petitioners, contended that it has been done to benefit a few units which are owned by influential persons.

In response, the Additional Advocate General submitted that no document was available regarding any decision to reduce the area of the sanctuary and that there is neither any decision nor any file which contains any information as to why the notification confined the sanctuary to an area of 244.15 sq. kms.

The bench pointed out that the Board had, as early as in its third meeting held on August 11, 2010, considered the proposal for declaring approximately 300 sq. kms. of the Kappatagudda forest area as a sanctuary.

"Inexplicably, some parts of the Kappatagudda reserve forest are excluded from the area of the KW Sanctuary. There is no ambiguity in the resolution dated 09.01.2019 passed by the Board, where the entire 300 sq kms of the reserve forest is declared as a wildlife sanctuary. It is affirmed on behalf of the State that the impugned notification was issued pursuant to the decision of the eleventh meeting of the Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. However, the impugned notification declares the only area of 24415.73 hectares (244.15 sq. kms.) as KW Sanctuary. This raises a question as to why approximately 55 sq kms of reserve forest was not declared as a wildlife sanctuary," the bench said.

A file photo of lush green Kappatagudda in Gadag district.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

A crocodile rests on a rock as a boat with tourists sails by at Ranganathittu sanctuary in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

HC notice to Google as Lanka SC judge seeks removal of articles

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered notices to the Ministry of Electronics and Google India in a petition filed by Justice A H M D Nawaz, a sitting Supreme Court judge of Sri Lanka.

The petitioner sought directions to remove alleged defamatory articles pertaining to him and URLs of news reports.

The court asked him to issue personal notices by email to the websites 'Colombo Telegraph' and 'Lanka enews', the other respondents in his petition.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum adjourned the matter until March 16 for further consideration.

The petitioner claimed that certain defamatory articles were published in 2015 and 2020. He submitted that the Sri Lankan Supreme Court had quashed the case against him and that no legal proceedings or criminal cases were pending.

The petitioner stated that despite these legal conclusions, defamatory articles against him are still perpetrated through online platforms, particularly through Google's Indian headquarters located in Bengaluru.

Beyond Lanka

He said the articles have traversed far beyond the shores of Sri Lanka and inflicted grievous damage upon his international reputation as jurist.

PIL on Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project: HC seeks govt reply by March 10

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday directed the state government to respond by March 10 to a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the proposed Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha also ordered notice to the state government and other authorities.

The petitioners - Akhilesh Chipli, Ravindranath Shanbhogue and Manohar Kumar C B - challenged the approval granted by the standing committee of National Board of Wildlife in its 84th meeting for the 2,000 M W Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project. The proposal requires a total extent of 142.763 hectares of land, of which 103 hectares is geographically located inside the Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary, 39.715 hectares is within the Eco-Sensitive Zone, the petitioners contended.

The petitioners submitted that under section 2(26) and section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, any activity within such a sanctuary is strictly prohibited unless it is established to be for the 'improvement and better management of wildlife'.

"If implemented, would result in destruction of the fragile ecosystem in the Western Ghats, including its flora, fauna to such an extent that some of the rare and endangered species found in the said area would be driven to extinction," the petitioners said.

The advocate representing the petitioners said that sections 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act permit only such activities in a sanctuary as are necessary for the improvement and better management of wildlife. A massive hydro-electric project involving blasting, tunnelling, quarrying, transmission corridors, waste dumping and permanent habitat fragmentation can, by no stretch of interpretation, satisfy this statutory condition, the advocate said.

The petitioners further stated that neither the State Board for Wildlife, nor the Standing Committee of NBWL, and the Central Government possesses jurisdiction to approve such a project. According to the petitioners, massive tunnelling work destroys the underground hydrology which results in drying of the streams as well as rivulets of Sharavathi river. It was further stated that usage of 18,000 tonnes of hazardous industrial explosives poses a serious threat to snakes, including king cobras, as well as subterranean mammals like pangolins.

ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ನಂ.1 ಮಂಗಳೂರು-575010
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NO.1, PANAMBUR, MANGALURU – 575 010

Walk-in-Interview for Teachers

Walk in interview for the following posts on contractual basis for the academic year 2026-2027 on 12th March 2026 at 10:00 AM in **PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Premises. Reporting Time: 9:00 am**.

Post	Date of Interview
PGTs	12th March 2026 (Thursday)
English, Economics	
TGTs	
Sanskrit, Social Science	
MiscellaneousTeachers	
Special Educator	
Balvatika Teachers	

For details of eligibility & educational qualification, please log on to **https://no1mangalore.kvs.ac.in.** Applicants to produce original as well as Xerox copies (self-attested) of all certificates and one passport size photograph and attend the interview on the said date.
Phone No. 0824-2407337

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

KRANTHIVEERA SANGOLLI RAYANNA SAINIK SCHOOL
Post: Sangolli, Tal: Bailhongal, Dist: Belagavi, PIN-591115
Email–principalsrss@gmail.com Website – www.ksrss.com

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited by Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Sainik School, Sangolli, for the following posts on Contractual basis.

Sl No	Posts	No
1.	TGT – English	3
2.	TGT – Science	4
3.	TGT – Mathematics	2
4.	TGT – Social Science	4
5.	TGT – Sanskrit	1
6.	TGT – Kannada	1
7.	Art & Craft Teacher	1
8.	Librarian	1
9.	Male Nurse	1
10.	Female Warden	1
11.	Clerk – Accounts/ Training	2
12.	PT/Sports/Drill Instructor	2

It is hereby notified to download the application form from the school's website and submit the filled application on or before 06 April 2026 by Registered/Speed post.

Sd/- Principal
Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Sainik School

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1989/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, 49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
Tele: 080-22258131-32-33, **E-mail:** murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com / info@ksiidc.com
web: www.ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in

NOTIFICATION TO RECRUIT COMPANY SECRETARY, CIVIL ENGINEERS AND SENIOR ASSISTANTS ON CONTRACT BASIS

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC) is a premier Infrastructure Development Institution of the State functioning as Nodal Agency of the Government for supervising the implementation of current mega Infrastructure and Airport projects. Applications are invited for the below mentioned posts from eligible candidates:

Sl. No.	Name of the posts (Contract Basis)	Qualification and Experience Details	Monthly consolidated salary in Rs.	Age Limit
1	Company Secretary (One Post)	The candidate must possess ACS (pass in Company Secretary final). Should be a member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). Must have an experience of 8-10 years in the relevant field. Knowledge of Kannada, including the ability to speak, read, and write, is essential.	Rs. 1,75,000/-	**Minimum:** 35 years **Maximum:** 45 years
2	Civil Engineers (Two Posts)	The candidate must possess a B.E. degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or Educational Institution, along with M.E./M.Tech in Structural Engineering and should have a minimum of five years of experience in major infrastructure or airport projects.	Rs. 70,000/-	**Minimum:** 30 years **Maximum:** 45 years
3	Senior Assistants (Three Posts)	The candidate must possess B.Sc. or B.Com or BBA or BCA or BBM from a recognised University. along with Senior English and Kannada shorthand/typewriting, knowledge of computer applications with 3 years of experience in the relevant field..	Rs. 20,000/-	**Minimum:** 25 years **Maximum:** 35 years

General Instructions:
1. The appointment for the post of Company Secretary shall be on contract basis for a period of five (5) years. For all other posts, the appointment shall be on contract basis for a period of one (1) year. The contract may be extended based on the Corporation's requirements and the candidate's performance.
2. The mode of selection shall be based on educational qualifications, relevant experience and performance in the interview.
3. Interested candidates are required to submit their resumes along with copies of educational qualification and experience certificates, either by Speed Post or in person, to the Deputy General Manager (P&A), KSIIDC, at the above-mentioned address. The applications must reach within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification. The date and time of the interview will be intimated separately.
4. For any clarification, please contact Deputy General Manager (Mobile No.: 98458-33566)

Sd/- Executive Director

Budget: Live telecast at 230 bus stands

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2026-27 Budget presentation will be telecast live in 230 bus stands across the state on Friday on digital screens, the department of information and public relations (DIPR) said.

Siddaramaiah's customary news conference after the budget presentation will also be shown live.

"This is the first time that the Budget presentation will be telecast live at bus stands. The CM, who is also the finance minister, is creating a new record by presenting his 17th budget," DIPR Commissioner Hemant Nimbalkar said in a statement.

Ban sought on sale of 'addictive beverage' near schools, colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has sought a ban on certain beverages with up to 15% alcohol content and high sugar content.

In a letter to the commissioner of the Department of Drug Control, the Commission specifically flagged a drink called BuzzBalls being sold near schools and colleges and requested that he initiate action to ban it and submit a report on the action taken within five days.

The Commission has registered a suo motu case regarding the same and stated that the beverage is packed and sold in a tin and the children are getting addicted to the drink.

"Any beverage having up to 15% alcohol content in it and high sugar will have adverse effects on the health of the children and children will get addicted without their knowledge," the Commission mentioned.

It has also urged the department not to allow such beverages to be accessible to children below the age of 18 years in the market and directed the department to issue specific guidelines in this regard.

31 students positive during drug test in 6 B'luru colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Vijayanagar subdivision police on Wednesday conducted checks in six educational institutions and two hostels to identify drug consumption among students under the 'Sanmitra' initiative.

With the consent of management authorities and the support of local police, doctors and technicians from nearby hospitals collected samples from more than 1,200 students, of which 585 samples were randomly tested. Of these, 31 samples tested positive for drug consumption. Students who tested positive will be provided counselling by mental health professionals and necessary medical support, a senior police officer said.

To address the growing problem of drug addiction among youth, Karnataka police have launched 'Sanmitra', an initiative that focuses on preventive action and rehabilitation to build a drug-free society.

Under the initiative, those found consuming drugs will be assigned dedicated police personnel for guidance and rehabilitation, in line with the police motto, 'Your Safety is Our Goal'.

Police officials assured that the identities and family details of the students would be kept strictly confidential.

Pvt schools aghast after 'steep hike' in textbook rates post indent

Prices not final, still in negotiation stage: Textbook Society

BENGALURU, DHNS

The private unaided schools affiliated to the state board have alleged that the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS) had effected a steep hike in prices of textbooks for 2026-27. The schools said that the increase was almost 50% for some titles.

Recently, the department of school education and literacy had asked the private state board schools to submit indents for the textbooks. The schools, which submitted the indents, were shocked looking at the rise in prices.

Some of the books for which the prices have been increased are: class 3 environmental studies (Rs 22 to Rs 45, mathematics in English part 2 for class 2 (Rs 25 to Rs 51).

The book for class 1 (Mathematics) NCERT English part 1 and 2 are costlier by by Rs 6 and Rs 3, respectively.

The prices of the textbooks for Hindustani and Carnatic music have been hiked for almost all levels from class 1 to 5.

For example, the cost of the Santoor part 1 (NCERT) textbook for class 4 is revised from Rs 31 to Rs 51. The Mridang textbook for class 1 has seen a price rise from Rs 42 to Rs 60.

Raising objections to this, D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said, "We are not in a position to charge extra for students as we have already shared book prices with parents. Why can't the government release the price list (when it has decided to effect a hike), before calling for indents from the schools".

The Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools has submitted a representation to the commissioner for department of school education and literacy, raising objections to the price rise after the indents were submitted.

"Textbook prices are notified at the time of inviting indents and schools place indents and remit advance payments based on the notified rates. But, at the time of delivery, prices are increased by 10% to 15%," it complained.

The organisation has demanded for the certified copy of the government order approving revised textbook rates and detailed cost analysis justifying escalation each academic year.

"Clarification is sought on statutory authority permitting retrospective revision and immediate direction restraining application of revised rates to already confirmed indents. We have also demanded for publication of transparent price fixation policy in future," said Prabhakar Urs, general secretary of the organisation.

However, denying the price hike, KTBS managing director M P Madegowda said that the Society had not yet finalised the prices.

"The rates are still in negotiation stage. The schools might have accessed rates quoted by the printers and got confused that they are the final rates," he clarified.

"This year, we have asked schools to remit 25% of the rates advance as against 10% earlier. This is to avoid books going waste after printing," Madegowda said.

Private schools are in a quandary as they have already shared textbook prices with parents, but they got to know of the revision while submitting indents. DH FILE PHOTO

Scrutiny list

School name	2024-25 (class 9)	2025-26 (class 10)
*KPS Hebbal	171	129
GHS Yeshwanthpur	75	46
KPS Seshadripuram	45	16
KPS Jalahalli	127	108
#GHS IISc	70	54
GHS Palace Guttahalli	48	33
GHS Prakashnagar	33	20
GHS Munvarmohalla	22	14
GHS Srirampuram	30	23
GHS 18thcross Malleshwaram	47	44

*Karnataka Public School #Government High School

B'luru govt schools under scanner for jump in dropout rate

Authorities issue notice, seek explanation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Some government schools in Bengaluru are under scanner for sheer number of students who dropped out in a span of one year, while shifting from class 9 to 10.

Seeking explanation from the school authorities, the Bengaluru North (2) Block Education Officer (BEO) stated that the department had realised about the difference in number of enrollment through the number entered on Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS).

As mentioned by the BEO in the reminder notice to schools, the difference in students' number was registered in at least 10 schools. They include schools located at Hebbal, Yeshwanthpur, Seshadripuram, Jalahalli, Palace Guttahalli and Malleshwaram.

According to the details available, the Karnataka Public School-Hebbal had 171 enrollment in the year 2024-25 for class 9, but this year, the number of students registered for class 10 exams were 129. "Our question is where have the other 42 students gone? why this much drop out rate?" questioned an official of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Officials opined that these 10 schools were just a sample and there were several such schools across the state. "The schools must submit a reply with detailed explanation about the students who dropped out from class 9 to 10," officials added. Some officials even suspect over-reporting of student numbers during enrollment.

Meanwhile, the department has also asked for a copy of the roll number of students registered for SSLC exam and those who have registered privately.

Cabinet defers decision on internal quota; to meet again

'Not all ministers were able to air their views'

H K PATIL
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

"The government is committed to internal reservation. The discussion has progressed in this regard. To continue the discussion, we will fix a (Cabinet) meeting, and the CM will fix a time for it.

BENGALURU, DHN:

Amid escalating differences amongst the right and left Dalit groups in the ruling Congress, the Cabinet on Thursday deferred a decision on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes, and decided to convene another meeting to decide the issue.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "The government is committed to internal reservation. The discussion has progressed in this regard. To continue the discussion, we will fix a (Cabinet) meeting, and the CM will fix a time for it."

Patil noted that the meeting remained inconclusive since not all ministers were able to articulate their views. He noted that even non-Dalit ministers had expressed their views. However, the minister refused to say when exactly the meeting would be held. "The Cabinet meeting will be held as soon as possible," he noted.

The Cabinet meeting comes at a time when its decision to recruit 56,432 government jobs as per the earlier 15% quota for SCs without including internal reservation has created a rift within the Dalit community.

While the SC (left)/Madiga community, which has for decades fought for internal reservation, has vehemently opposed the Cabinet's decision, the SC (Right)/Holeya community has hailed the government. This is also said to have divided the Cabinet. While SC (left) ministers such as K H Muniyappa and R B Timmapur are seeking internal reservation, SC (right) ministers such as G Parameshwara, Dr H C Mahadevappa and Priyank Kharge have stood by the notification.

According to sources, CM Siddaramaiah is upset with the rift and is believed to be in favour of a speedy settlement.

In other decisions, the Cabinet asked Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao to hold another round of discussions with protesting doctors and staff. However, the law minister said Essential Services Maintenance Act would not be invoked.

It deferred a decision on extending lease of one acre land to Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College Trust.

FINESSE & FINANCES

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is portrayed in rangoli on the eve of the presentation of a record 17th budget by him, in front of Kote Anjaneyaswamy temple in Mysuru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

HDK flays CM for not resolving internal quota issue

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday criticised CM Siddaramaiah for not resolving the internal reservation issue.

He was speaking at a programme where some leaders from Malur Assembly constituency joined JD(S). The event also marked the merger of Swabhimani Janata Party with JD(S).

Kumaraswamy said, "Siddaramaiah has been in power for close to 8 years. He claims that he is an Ahinda leader. Despite all this, he has failed to decide on internal reservation issue".

He said Siddaramaiah remembers social justice and Ahinda only during elections. "The people should understand this," he remarked.

He flagged the government's inefficiency in providing the list of communities that have got reservation facilities in the last eight to ten years.

"I have been asking for this list for a while now, but releasing such a list may reveal the real colour of the chief minister. Hence, they are avoiding it," he charged.

Kumaraswamy said doing politics in the name of reservation has become a habit.

"Politics in the name of reservation must end. There are two-three groups regarding internal reservation issue. It is not a healthy development," he said.

Seeks full term for JD(S)

Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy has requested all communities to give his party JD(S) a chance to work for a full five years.

"I will request people of all communities in the state to bless us with one more chance to run the government for a full term of five years. I will rectify all the mistakes and injustice done by the Congress," he said.

'Siddu supplied B'luru sewage to Kolar, Chikkaballapur'

Former prime minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda charged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is ready to present his 17th budget, has flown the sewage water of Bengaluru to Chikkaballapur and Kolar districts.

"Siddaramaiah had promised to give drinking water to Kolar and Chikkaballapur. But he has given them Bengaluru's sewage water.

The famous tomato of Kolar is now advised not to be consumed. The Congress and the drainwater are responsible for this," he alleged.

There are issues in BJP, admits Vijayendra

DAVANAGERE, DHNS

Admitting to dissidence in BJP, party state president B Y Vijayendra said: "It is true that there are small issues and confusions in the party. We will not let this continue. We will resolve it soon."

He was speaking to mediapersons after holding a meeting with the faction led by former minister M P Renukacharya at a private resort, on the outskirts of the city, on Thursday.

Vijayendra agreed that there were small loopholes in the district BJP.

"We are trying to fix everything. We are sitting and discussing with the party leaders," he added.

A meeting of ticket aspirants was held in the backdrop of Davangere South Assembly constituency by-election.

The opinion of another group of aspirants will be gathered at a meeting to be held GMIT guesthouse. "Finally, we will field a consensus candidate," he said in response to a question.

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP state president

"We are trying to fix everything. We are sitting and discussing with the party leaders.

Meeting with G M Siddeshwara faction

A meeting to get the opinion of former union minister G M Siddeshwara and Harihar MLA B P Harish faction began around 2:15 pm at the GMIT guesthouse in the city. BJP state in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal as well as Vijayendra participated in the meeting.

Earlier, Siddeshwara held a meeting. BJP workers who came from different parts of the district expressed their anger against M P Renukacharya. They also expressed their dissatisfaction with BJP Parliamentary Board member B S Yediyurappa, who named potential candidates for the next Assembly polls in a recent meeting held in Honnali without consulting the party workers.

CHILL TIME

Byadgi chilli growers buoyed by best-ever price for produce

ARUN KUMAR HURALIMATH
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Shrunk cultivation area, yield, and huge demand from masala companies and exporters have led to the price surge of Byadgi chillies. As a result, farmers are seeing the best prices ever in history and are happy with the prices.

Byadgi chillies were sold for Rs 30,000 per quintal in 2024-25. This year (2025-26), the average price lies between Rs 50,000 and Rs 70,000 per quintal. Recently, four bags of the Byadgi dabbi variety (popularly called Kashmiri chilli) were sold for Rs 89,999 per quintal, the highest price ever in the history of Byadgi chilli.

Channappa Mayannavar, a dry chilli grower from Chakkanarti village of Kundgol taluk in Dharwad district, said last year they cultivated dry chilli on 12 acres and invested around Rs 1.80 lakh. Due to rain and disease, they managed to get only 4 quintals of yield, which was sold for Rs 30,000. This year, they decided to totally drop the chilli crop. But his father forced him not to drop their traditional crop.

He cultivated the crop on only 4 acres. They got a good yield and a good price, too, he added. To protect the crop from thieves, they have installed a CCTV camera in their field.

Byadgi Chilli Merchants' Association secretary Raju Morigeri said there is a shortage of supply of Byadgi chillies, and masala companies have been demanding more supplies.

"In January, following the price hike, only a few masala companies purchased chillies. In February, the supply of Byadgi chillies did not improve; hence, many malasa companies rushed to the market to buy chillies, which is the reason behind the shot-up prices," he noted.

He also added that all frontline masala companies in the country use Byadgi chillies for good colour, medium pungency and long shelf life of their products. Therefore, it is inevitable for them to purchase the chillies at any cost. Last year, good-quality chillies were sold for Rs 30,000, but this year the price is almost double, he explained.

All frontline masala companies in the country use Byadgi chillies for good colour, medium pungency and long shelf life of their products.

Byadgi APMC secretary Adarsh said they get all varieties of dry chilli to the Byadgi market, which is the largest dry chilli market in India. This year, they have received only 20% of the Byadgi variety chilli, and the rest are of other varieties.

The Byadgi chilli market follows an online e-tender system. The farmers can sell their produce through online bidding and get the best price based on quality. Therefore, the farmers visit Byadgi market from many districts and even from the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Karnataka State Spices Development Board (KSSDB) Managing Director B R Girish said the dry chilli cultivating area dropped to 83,597 ha in 2025-26 from 1.24 lakh ha in 2024-25. Despite this, the rain in September and October also affected the yield, followed by diseases. "In the cultivated area, only 10% is the Byadgi variety chilli," he noted.

Karibasappa Hariyalad, a chilli trader in Byadgi, said, "Last year, there was a good supply and lower prices. This year, there is less supply and good prices. We are doing well this year."

RAJU MORIGERI
Secretary, Byadgi Chilli Merchants' Association

"In January, following the price hike, only a few masala companies purchased chillies. In February, the supply of Byadgi chillies did not improve; hence, many malasa companies rushed to the market to buy chillies, which is the reason behind the shot-up prices.

Rs 6.4 cr for 240 women-led enterprises under RAMP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rs 6.4 crore has been allocated for specific interventions, including acceleration and mentorship for 240 women-led enterprises, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, Rohini Sindhuri, Secretary (MSME, Mines, Textiles and Sugar), said on Thursday.

Addressing an International Women's Day gathering at the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), she also announced a Women Hackathon, where 12 winners will be awarded Rs 10 lakh to scale up their organisations. Speaking about government support to state entrepreneurs, the official said that of the 25 lakh registrations on the UDYAM portal (the official site for MSME registrations), only 6.39 lakh are women-led—a gap that these initiatives are attempting to close.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-645/2025-26 Date:05.03.2026

SHORT-TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Short-term tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT225)

Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: **(1)** Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **06.03.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **09.03.2026, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **10.03.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **20.03.2026, 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **23.03.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA,Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat Haveri)

Office of the District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri

#21, 'B' Block District Administration Building, Devagiri
E-mail : dhohaveri@gmail.com Ph : 08375-249049
Fax : 08375-249009 : 9449843054

SL.No/DPMU/HVR/NHM/2025-26 Date : 02/03/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub : Inviting Tender for Engagement of Driver cum Vehicle on contract basis through KPP Portal.
Ref : Approval note form Chief Executive Officer, ZP Haveri dated : 26/02/2026

E-tender in two bid system are invited for engagement of agencies from Registered/Well-established Tours and Travels Vehicle service providers for providing contractual (outsource) Hiring vehicle with Driver To Various programs / officers of Haveri District under NHM for the year 2026-27. The manual bids shall not be accepted.Tender Document can be downloaded from (www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in) as per schedule given here under:-

Attributes : Schedule : (1) Tender Publish Date : **03/03/2026** (2) Tender Value (Approximate) Rs. **87.00** Lakhs (3) Bid Submission End date Date : **17/03/2026** Time: 4.00 PM (4) Technical Bid Opening Date : **18/03/2026** Time 11:00 AM (5) Financial Bid Opening date : Will be intimate later (6) Earnest Money Deposit to be submitted (EMD) Rs. **1.72** Lakhs (7) Place and Liaison Officer / address District Health & Family Welfare Office, Haveri, Ph : **9449843113**

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/770/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, Bengaluru - 560098.

No: Cvo/Hod/Ah/Tender/PR-67/2025-26 Date: 03-03-2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru West City Corporation invites Proposal in Two Cover System from eligible Bidders for **Implementing Mass Dog Vaccination (MDV) - ARV & Combined Vaccine and Micro Chipping for Stray Dogs IN BWCC, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Zone (Zone-1) and Malleshwaram Zone (Zone-2).**

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Expression of Interest (EOI) Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06-03-2026 onwards. 2)** Tender Inviting Authority: **Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC. 3)** Tender Accepting Authority: **Commissioner, BWCC. 4)** Date, Time and Venue of Pre Bid Meeting: **09-03-2026 at 11.30 AM at the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560098. 5)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **09-03-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 6)** Last Date & Time for Uploading of EOI in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **20-03-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 7)** Date and Time of Opening of EOI in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **23-03-2026 at 5.10 PM. 8)** Place of Opening of EOI: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 9)** Address for Communication: **the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560098.** Phone No: **9480685206,** E-Mail: **cvohodah.bwcc@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Chief Veterinary Officer,
Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC

Government of Karnataka

Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot

Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com Fax: 08354-235043

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1,2,3/CMIDP/Tender/2025-26/6166 Date: 05.03.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (One & Two Cover System) (KW-1, 2 & 3 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT **1999** and Rules **2000** STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1, 2, 3 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.

Tender Called for **ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಅನುದಾನದ** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ, ಬೀಳಗಿ, ಹುನಗುಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ತೇರದಾಳ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸೇತುವೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

Scheme Under Work Indent No:

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 22915, 22138/Call-3, 22156/Call-3, 24948, 24407, 23892, 25147

ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2 (ಎ) ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22134/Call-2, 25145,

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 25146, 25148

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22917, 25142,

ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (**ರೂ20.00 ದಿಂದ 90.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು**), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ. read as below.

Calendar of event

1	**Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement**	**Dt:06.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 at 5.30pm**
2	**Opening of Technical Bid Date** (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.)	**Dt:18.03.2026 at 11.00 am**
3	**Opening of Financial Bid Date**	**Technical Bid Approved.**

Note:-More details can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. **Phone No: 08354-235042**

DIPR/Bagalkot/635/Deshpandepublicity/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.

No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE-1/T.No.56/2025-26/ Dt. 03-03-2026

Short Term Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW-3&4 e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 02 work under 4059 CMIDP and 3054 SH Maintenance Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Maximun amount Put to Tender **Rs.141.50 Lakhs** and Minimum amount put to Tender **Rs.78.47 Lakhs** Maximun EMD Amount **Rs. 2,12,260/-** and Minimum EMD Amount **Rs. 78,479/-**)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**10-03-2026: 17-30**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**11-03-2026 : 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**12-03-2026: 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**13-03-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-291/25-26/Oysters P.W.D Division, Tumkur

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division,Zone-2, 2nd cross Road, Jaladarshini layout, MSR Nagara, Mathikere, Bengaluru-54

No: EE/MLM/KPPP/17/2025-26 Date: 04-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Single & Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Tender for the following work on item rate basis are invited as Standard Bid Documents KW-1 &3 by the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations may apply through e-procurement portal as per schedule of events

Sl No.	Name of the works/Category
1.	Comprehensive development like Waterproofing of roof, Painting, repairs to all the toilets and other civil alled works for BBMP Quarters Ward No-55 (old-45), Malleshwaram. CALL-2 (Others) **Estimate Cost for Tender: ₹. 15.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹. 12.29 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 30,800/-**
2.	Civil maintenance in Malleshwaram constituency parks.(Others) **Estimate Cost for Tender: ₹. 10.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹. 8.32 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 20,800/-**
3.	Annual Maintenance of Re-asphalting of roads in Ward No-54 (old-36), Mathikere. CALL-2 (Others) **Estimate Cost for Tender: ₹. 85.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹. 68.57Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 1,37,200/-**
4.	Pothole Filling in Ward No- 57(old-64) Rajmahal Guttahalli, Ward No- 58(old-65) Kadu Malleshwara, Ward No- 59(old-66) Subramananyanagar & Ward No- 60(old-76) Gayathrinagar Malleshwaram Sub Division. CALL-3 (Others) **Estimate Cost for Tender: ₹. 80.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹. 64.54 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 1,29,100/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **07-03-2026**, **4:30** pm. onwards (2) Last Date & Time for uploading Tender documents on **16-03-2026** upto **4:30** pm. (3) Opening of Tender on **17-03-2026** at **12:00** noon.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga

Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga – 577201, Shivamogga District

Ph: 08182-295268 e-mail ID: ncdshivamogga2@gmail.com
No.: D.X.W.S/EQ1/2025-26 Date: 02.03.2026

Tender Notification

e-Tender is invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 by the District Health Association regarding the purchase of 9 equipments required to Ayushman Health Sub Centres under Zilla Panchayat's 15th Finance Commission (FR 4) for the year 2025-26.

1. Commencement date for uploading the Tender Form: As on e-Portal **2.** Last date and time for uploading the Tender Form: 05.03.2026 up to 5.30 PM **3.** Date and time of opening the Technical Bid: 25.03.2026, 11.30 AM **4.** Date and time of opening the Financial Bid: 26.03.2026, 11.30 AM **5.** Approx. Amount of Tender: Rs. 135.16 lakhs (As per required demand increasing or decreasing the Tender amount and accepting or rejecting the Tender will be the decision of The District Health Association) E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 2,02,752/-.

For further information contact the Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga during office hours.

Note: 1 The undersigned reserves the Right to postpone the Tender Process/Completely cancel the Tender/reject the Tender without assigning any reason thereof. **2.** Further, if there are any changes in the Tender Process it will not be published in newspapers but changes will be published only on the electronic procurement platform.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/25-26/12/03/1945

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids through KPP Portal mode for the following works.

I. CEE/Tr.(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AE-1/2025-26/14905-08 Date: 04.03.2026

Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3416** Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at existing 110/11kV **Mavali** sub-station in Soraba Taluk, Shivamogga District on PTK basis"- **(call-3).**

Note: 10MVA PTR and 11kV switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL for above work.

II. CEE/Tr.(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AE-1/TLGP-Brkrs/2025-26/14900-903 Date: 04.03.2026

Work Indent No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/ WORK_INDENT 3419**

Combined Package of:

Work A: Replacement of Five no's of Age old/Obsolete M/s. CGL make 220kV SF6 Circuit Breaker by new M/s. CG power make 220kV SF6 Circuit Breaker at 220/400kV Station, KPTCL, **Talaguppa.**

Work B: Replacement of Two no's of Age old/Obsolete M/s. CGL make 220kV SF6 Circuit Breaker by new M/s. CG power make 220kV SF6 Circuit Breaker at 220KV Station, KPTCL, **Balligavi.**

Work C: Providing 2 no's of additional 11kV MCVCB MEI make switchgear at 110/11kV sub-station **Talaguppa** coming under 400kV station and SSM Division, KPTCL, Talaguppa.

Work D: Replacement of 7 no's of 11kV DP set at 110/33/11kV sub-station **Jog** coming under 400kV station and Operation Division, KPTCL, **Talaguppa.**

The bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiries in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging KPTCL Website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.03.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Electy.,), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-278321 Date: 26.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2025-26/ IND0153/CALL-2	**Double Pole Structure-GI**	**1,200 Sets**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.03.2026.**

DIPR/DK/MPL/1703/25-26 **Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), (Procurement)**

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001,
Ph: 080-25586520, 25589112, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: **contact@kspcb.gov.in** Website : **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

No. PCB/WMC-1/281/CMC/MSW/2025/2025-26/5267 Date: 05/03/2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

City Municipal Council, Ramanagar has proposed to set up Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Processing and Disposal Facility (SWMP & DF) of capacity 100 TPD at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

As Per Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SLEIAA), Karnataka and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) process. As per the Terms of Reference letter No. SEIAA 19 IND 2025, dated: 30.09.2025 of State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority - Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated: 14.11.2025 & 20.01.2026, the EPH is scheduled on **08.04.2026.**

The details of the proposed new project are as follows:

1. Name of the local body & Address: Commissioner City Municipal Council, Ramanagara, Bengaluru South District

2. Proposed location of the project: Sy. No. 166, Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

3. Details of project proposed: Proposed setting up of Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Processing and Disposal Facility (SWMP & DF) of capacity 100 TPD at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing : 8th April 2026 Wednesday at 11.00 AM at Sy. No. 166, in an extent area of 9.38 Acres at Harisandra Village, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District, Karnataka.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru South District. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Office of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Panchayat Bhavan, B.M. Road, Ramanagara-562159. (c) District Industries Centre, Bengaluru South District. (d) Taluk Panchayath Office, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. (e) Tahasildar Office, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. (f) City Municipal Council, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. (g) Office of the Senior Environmental Officer-**Ramanagara,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, No. 62/5, Vaderahalli, Bengaluru – Mysuru Road, Near DC Office, Ramanagara–562159.(h) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, No. 62/5, Vaderahalli, Bengaluru – Mysuru Road, Near DC Office, Ramanagara– 562159. (i)Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (j) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru South District).** Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **http://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL

NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/MVS OM/2025-26/1442 Date: 04.03.2026

SHORT TERM E-PROCURMENT NOTIFICATION (Second Call & Third Call)
Double Cover System

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for MVS O M Work The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through kppp portol mode through portol http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

General Information: 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only 4) Two Cover Tender Called.

If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from **05/03/2026** Tender Processing Fee: As Per KPPP Portol Tender Downloading Date: **05/03/2026** Time: 10:00 AM to **16/03/2026** 16:00 Hours Tender receiving Date and Time: **05/03/2026** Time: 10:00 AM to 16/03/2026 16:00 Hours Technical Bid Opening Date and Time: **17/03/2026** Date:16:30 Hours Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority **20/03/2026** or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority

The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/730/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/23/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (in Rupees)
1	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru Central City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
2	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru East City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
3	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru West City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
4	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru North City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
5	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru South City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-

Stipulated Period of Service Contract : **06 Months**

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries : **10.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs** in KPP Portal **2.** Date of Pre bid meeting: **11.03.2026 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager-2 (Tech), BSWML, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052. **3.** Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **16.03.2026 before 16:00 hours. 4.** The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **17.03.2026 after 16:30 hours. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified of technically quailfied bidders .

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP Portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

DIPR/CP/6035/Zen/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ

ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಜೆ.ಎನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ–581325. ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08284–231482/230561
ಜನಹಿತ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–23108108 www.dandelicity.mrc.gov.in E-mail id: ka.dandeli.cmc@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ದಾನಸ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ವಿವ/CMIDP ಟೆಂಡರು/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (CMIDP) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ–2000 KPPP Portal ಮೂಲಕ ಏಕ್–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು KW-2 ಹಾಗೂ KW-3, ಬಿಡ್ ಕರಾರಿನಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.dandelicity.mrc.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರು ವಿವರ: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–03–2026 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–03–2026 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–03–2026 17:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–03–2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ
1	2	3	4	5
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55045	79.76	1.60	ಇತರೆ
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55046	33.46	0.67	ಇತರೆ
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55047	34.66	0.70	ಇತರೆ
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55048	42.26	0.85	ಇತರೆ
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55049	42.26	0.43	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
6	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55050	23.28	0.23	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
7	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55051	32.88	0.66	ಇತರೆ
8	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55052	22.35	0.23	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ –2 (ಅ)
9	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55053	25.75	0.52	ಇತರೆ
10	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55054	23.65	0.48	ಇತರೆ
11	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55055	39.45	0.79	ಇತರೆ
12	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55056	68.40	0.69	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
13	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55057	29.56	0.60	ಇತರೆ
14	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55058	20.27	0.40	ಇತರೆ
15	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55059	30.26	0.30	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2(ಅ)
16	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55060	41.29	0.41	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟಪಂಗಡ
17	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55061	58.63	0.59	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2(ಅ)
18	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55062	17.22	0.17	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2(ಅ)
19	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55063	28.93	0.58	ಇತರೆ
20	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55064	17.05	0.35	ಇತರೆ
21	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55065	28.25	0.29	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2(ಅ)
22	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55066	19.46	0.20	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
23	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55067	25.07	0.26	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ
24	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55068	18.26	0.37	ಇತರೆ
25	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55069	26.80	0.27	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
26	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55071	19.82	0.20	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1
27	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55072	27.08	0.27	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
28	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55073	28.52	0.57	ಇತರೆ
29	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55074	40.65	0.81	ಇತರೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ
ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಉ.ಕ.ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ

ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1165/25-26 dt. 04.03.2026

Lanka offloads crew of 2nd Iran ship

Iran, From Page 1

Israel has issued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Lebanon's Iran-allied Hezbollah militants.

All the while, the US and Israel have battered Iran with nationwide strikes, targeting their military capabilities, leadership and nuclear programme.

US President Donald Trump has told Axios on Thursday that he should be involved in picking Iran's next supreme leader, and that Mojtaba Khamenei, a frontrunner to succeed his father, would be an "unacceptable" choice. Iran's attacks have targeted their Arab neighbours, disrupted oil supplies and snarled global air travel.

Israel announced multiple incoming missile attacks and air sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The Israeli military said it carried out a wave of strikes on Iran's ballistic missile launch sites.

Gulf countries also reported coming under fire. In the United Arab Emirates, a drone was shot down near the Al Dhafra Air Base, which hosts US forces, and shrapnel fell to the ground, authorities said. Six people were wounded.

Qatar evacuated residents near the US Embassy in Doha as a temporary precaution and later reported a missile attack on the city. Saudi Arabia said it destroyed a drone in its province bordering Jordan.

Sirens sounded in Bahrain Thursday afternoon, while the country's Defence Ministry said its forces had intercepted 75 Iranian ballistic missiles and 124 drones since the start of the war on Saturday. Bahrain said an Iranian missile hit a state-run oil refinery. There were no reports of casualties.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused Iran of carrying out "a groundless act of terror and aggression" after a drone crashed Thursday near the airport in Nakhchivan, a region bordering Iran that is separated from the rest of the country by Armenia. Another drone fell near a school. Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General's office said four civilians, all airport workers, were wounded.

Aliyev said the military had been instructed "to prepare and implement retaliatory measures".

Iran's general staff of the armed forces denied it had launched drones toward Azerbaijan.

A tanker apparently came under attack off the coast of Kuwait early Thursday, expanding the area where commercial shipping was in danger, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre run by the British military. It said there was an explosion but did not offer a cause.

In tech hub Bengaluru, legislators still clinging to CDs

Digitisation, From Page 1

AI-based attendance for members and an online file movement system are operational. Yet, the dream of a paperless House remains distant.

The Union government's National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), launched under the 'One Nation, One Application' framework in 2014, sought to digitise State legislatures with 60% Central assistance. Karnataka briefly explored NeVA in 2018 but later opted to develop its own software, citing "serious gaps", particularly for a bicameral legislature.

Officials argue that workflows in Karnataka — movement of Bills between Assembly and Council, file transfers from departments, and the functioning of Question and Notice branches — are more complex than in unicameral states. While at least 19 states have adopted NeVA, and Parliament has implemented its own Digital Sansad platform, Karnataka remains divided over whether to customise NeVA or build an independent system.

A gap analysis conducted by Technical, Financial and Rules committees concluded that a tailored platform integrating the Assembly, Council, Legislative, Question, Notice, Accounts, Administrative branches and committees would be more suitable. A detailed project report (DPR), prepared based on these recommendations, is awaiting approval from Speaker U T Khader.

If cleared, the project will move through a Project Management Unit, followed by expressions of interest and tenders for nearly 75 modules. The first phase will cover Bengaluru's Assembly and Council, followed by Belagavi, at an estimated cost of Rs 275–300 crore. Digitisation could significantly reduce the estimated Rs 30 crore spent annually on printing reports, Bills and questions. However, structural constraints in the heritage building pose challenges. Wooden flooring limits cabling, and electrical regulations permit only DC power required experts, including from IISc, to devise AC-to-DC solutions.

Under the proposed system, 224 MLAs and 75 MLCs would have individual touchscreens inside the House. While a few members are tech-savvy, many rely on assistants. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah admitting his difficulties in using a smartphone reflects on the older generation of legislators' reluctance to use new technology.

Earlier, then Speaker K G Bopaiah had distributed iPads with training support. Current members have sought new devices. Even as the paperless Legislature is in "build" phase, the first- time MLAs' training programme could do with a module on using latest technology besides the House rule and procedures. Whether Karnataka can finally join the league of digital legislatures now hinges on the DPR's approval — and political will.

All eyes on Siddu's record 17th Budget

Budget, From Page 1

The government is also expected to set higher revenue collection targets for the commercial taxes and excise departments. Siddaramaiah is also expected to point fingers at the Union government for 'injustice' to Karnataka in the devolution of taxes, not sharing cesses/surcharges with states and for tweaking GST rates in the middle of the fiscal, affecting revenue collection.

'Debt-ramaiah'

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka guessed that criticism of PM Modi and "repeated mention" of the 'guarantee' schemes will be "the only highlight" in the Budget. "By the end of Siddaramaiah's term, the state's debt will exceed Rs 8 lakh crore, breaching fiscal discipline," Ashoka said, dubbing the CM as 'Debt-ramaiah'. He claimed that Siddaramaiah's borrowings equalled those of over a dozen CMs combined.

"This time, too, I feel he'll borrow loans amounting to Rs 1.15 lakh crore," Ashoka said.

"Anybody can run the government by borrowing loans. You need a clever finance minister whose budget creates higher revenues, ensures no burden on citizens and takes the state away from debt," he said, adding that Siddaramaiah had imposed 36 taxes on citizens.

Tamil Nadu Guv transferred to poll-bound West Bengal

Ravi, From Page 1

Stalin's argument was that Ravi's attacks against Dravidianism helped "expose the BJP," spread Dravidian ideology to the masses, and clarify the party's demand for state autonomy.

Ravi holds the distinction of being the only Tamil Nadu Governor to return two Bills to the Assembly and withhold assent to 10 others, prompting the state government to convene three special sessions in 2022 and 2023 to re-enact all twelve bills unchanged. He further escalated tensions by sending 12 Bills to the President of India, an action the DMK challenged in court.

The latest reshuffle also sees Arif Mohd Khan leaving the Bihar Lok Bhavan without an assignment while Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain (retired) occupies his place. Former Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu is the new Lt Governor of Delhi. The appointments were made by President Droupadi Murmu and will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said. Besides the changes in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Lok Bhavans in Telangana, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh will see new Governors while Ladakh and Delhi will have new Lieutenant Governors.

In other appointments, Himachal Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla was transferred to Telangana, whose incumbent Jishnu Dev Varma was moved to Maharashtra. At present, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat was holding additional charge of Maharashtra. Relieving Manipur Governor AK Bhalla of his additional charge in Nagaland, the President has appointed Nand Kishore Yadav, a former Bihar Speaker, as the new Governor in the north-eastern state.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta has been transferred to Himachal Pradesh as Governor. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena will replace Gupta.

All eyes on top job in Bihar as Nitish heads to Rajya Sabha

Nitish Kumar, From Page 1

Samrat, who has earlier served as the Bihar BJP president, belongs to the Kushwaha community, the second largest non-Yadav OBC group in the state.

Samrat has very good equations within the BJP as well as Nitish, as his father Shakuni Choudhary, a former minister, was a founding member of the Samata Party when Nitish floated his pocket organisation in 1994 after severing ties with Lalu Prasad and Janata Dal.

Nityanand Rai, the Union Minister of State for Home, has been groomed by Amit Shah. But Rai, a Yadav, has a fellow casteman rival within the BJP - Ram Kripal Yadav – who is soft spoken, suave, and has served as a Union Minister as well as Nitish's Cabinet Minister.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh and Industry Minister Dilip Jaiswal too are said to be in the race for the CM's post. "We always said that the BJP wants to have its own CM and it will replace Nitish soon. But this is against the mandate as the NDA secured a landslide in the name of Nitish," said Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav. RJD MP Manoj Jha too echoed similar sentiments, "The way Nitish has written on X does not reflect his opinion. Apparently, someone sitting in New Delhi has written the post on his behalf, saying that it was his desire to enter the Rajya Sabha."

It was my desire: Nitish

"It was my desire to become a member of both the Houses in the Parliament, just like I have been a member of both the Houses in the state legislature. I have been a member of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council and the Lok Sabha. Now, I feel I should be a member of the Rajya Sabha as well," said Nitish in a post in Hindi on X. "The new government in Bihar will have my full support and proper guidance," Nitish said.

His post sounded more like a farewell speech from the outgoing CM, wherein he thanked everyone. "For the last two decades, you have shown implicit faith in me and I have served you with full dedication. It is your trust because of which Bihar was put on the fast track of good governance and it set new standards of development," said Nitish.

B'lurean first Indian to win major UK conservation prize

LONDON, PTI: Dr Krithi K Karanth, CEO of the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), became the first Indian to win a prestigious conservation prize from the Royal Geographical Society in London on Thursday.

Bengaluru-based Krithi K Karanth was named the joint winner of the 2026 Esmond B Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize for her crucial contributions to human understanding of the world's ecosystems and work to protect the planet's biodiversity. She was praised as a major player in changing the narrative around conservation projects in India and beyond, creating holistic interventions that build support networks. "I am deeply humbled and profoundly honoured to be the first Asian recipient of the Esmond B Martin Prize," said Karanth. "At this critical moment for our planet, the need for science-based conservation – grounded in evidence, collaboration, and courage – has never been greater. We must nurture a growing community of stewardship – people who care deeply, act boldly, and work collectively to safeguard our shared future," she said.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road),
Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Email: eecontractksphc@gmail.com Website: www.ksphc.org

No: EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/10/2025-26/470 Date: 04.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.

01 Roof Sealing By Providing Truss & Sheet To Administration Building at PTC Naganhalli in Kalaburagi District (APT Amt: Rs.49.18 Lakhs). Category : **CAT-II(A).**

02 Construction of Rooms with Gallery for Firing Range Area at Katlepur In Raichur District (APT Amt: Rs.25.04 Lakhs). Category: **CAT-II(A) .**

03 A) Construction of 02 PSI Quarters at Raichur District (APT Amt: Rs.75.25 Lakhs) And **B)** Construction of Ladies Dressing and Toilet Room in Madhukar Shetty Parade Ground at PTC Naganhalli In Kalburagi District (APT Amt.Rs.37.43 Lakhs). Category: **SC.**

04 Construction of CPI Office at Sulepet In Kalaburagi District (APT Amt: Rs.73.21 Lakhs. Category: **ST.**

05 A) Construction of Compound Wall at Basapura In Koppal District. (APT Amt: Rs.75.43 Lakhs), **B)** Construction of M.T. Shed & Rest Room at Basapura In Koppal District (APT Amt: Rs.73.85 Lakhs), **C)** Construction of Police Guest House at Yeragera In Raichur District (APT Amt: Rs.49.56 Lakhs), **D)** Construction of CPC Canteen at DAR Basapura In Koppal District (APT Amt: Rs.33.89 Lakhs), **E)** Construction of Out Post Police Station at Bendebemballi in Yadgir District (APT Amt: Rs.35.89 Lakhs), **F).** Construction of Armory Building at Bidar (APT Amt: Rs.42.30 Lakhs), **G).** Construction of Record Room at Raichur District (APT Amt: Rs. 33.89 Lak)ls **H)** Construction of DYSP Office at Kalaburagi (APT Amt: Rs. 138.88 Lakhs) **I)** Construction of 6 PSI Quarters at Basavakalyana in Bidar District (APT Amt: Rs. 146.96 Lakhs) **J)** Construction of CEN Police Station at Yadgir (APT Amt: Rs. 97.82 Lakhs) **K)** Construction of Dog Kennel at Yadgir (APT Amt: Rs. 90.57 Lakhs) **L)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Kalagi In Kalaburagi District (APT Amt: Rs.303.62 Lakhs) **M)** Construction of 24 Nos of PC Quarters at Halavagalu In Vijayanagara District. (APT Amt: Rs.523.59 Lakhg) **N)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Bidar (APT Amt: Rs.326.38 Lakhs) **O)** Construction of 24 Nos of PC Quarters at Kampli In Ballari District (APT Amt: Rs.523.47 Lakhs) **P)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Kembhavi In Yadgiri District (APT Amt: Rs.289.34 Lakhs) **Q)** Construction of Police Bhavana & Guest House at Basapura In Koppal District (APT Aunt: Rs.220.30 Lakhs) **R)** Construction of 04 PSI Quarters at Kanakagiri In Koppal District (APT Amt:Rs.117.44 Lakhs) **S)** Construction of Rural Police Stations (Grade-6) at Raichur In Raichur District (APT Amt: Rs.207.01 Lakhs) **T)** Construction of Commanding Center, Meeting Hall & Auditorium In The SP Office Premises of Raichur District. (APT Amt: Rs.133.43 Lakh). Category: **Others.**

06 Providing Project Management Consultancy Services including Supervision, Quality Assurance, Progress Monitoring / Reporting, Measurement, Billing and Documentation for the Works of **A)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Kalagi In Kalaburagi District (APT Amt: Rs.303.62 Lakhs) **B)** Construction of 24 Nos of PC quarters at Halavagalu In Vijayanagara District. (APT Amt: Rs.573.59 lakhs. **C)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Bidar (APT Amt: Rs.326.38 Lakhs) **D)** Construction of 24 Nos of PC Quarters at Kampli in Ballari District (APT Amt: Rs.523.47 Lakhs) **E)** Construction of 12 PC Quarters at Kembhavi In Yadgiri District (APT Amt: Rs.289.34 Lakhs) **F)** Construction of Police Bhavana & Guest House at Basapura in Koppal District (APT Amt: Rs.220.30 Lakhs) **G)** Construction of Rural Police Station (Grade-6) at Raichur in Raichur District (Apt Amt: Rs.207.01 Lakhs).

Interested eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPPP from **05.03.2026 onwards.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the Tender will be updated only on KPPP.

DIPR/CP/YC/6018/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer - Contracts**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/Tend/ 18 /2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)-Call 2 (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tenders from Waste pickers/ Self Help Groups/Non-Government Organisations/C&T Contractors for the operation and maintenance of Dry Waste Collection Centres for a period of 5 years. The interested tenderers may submit tenders through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the bid document. For other details refer bid document.

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **10.03.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. **2.** Pre bid meeting: **11.03.2026 at 12.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.**Last date for submission of the bids: **16.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.**Date of opening of bid: **17.03.2026 after 16.30 Hrs.**

DIPR/CP/6038/ZEN/2025-26 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/SE0006 Date: 05/03/2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for engagement of expert agency for MongoDB support and managed services for 36 Virtual Server in Bhu-Suraksha Project for 2 years. The last date for uploading filled tender form in K.P.P Portal is **23/03/2026 by 5.29 P.M.** Details regarding Terms and Conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Assistant Commmissioner, Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/SMCL/6037/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(W)/I/3861/2026 Date: 26.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP Mode Only)

MESCOM invites Short term tender for the work of Providing Breaker protection for 1x5MVA and 1x12.5MVA Power transformers, formation of additional 33kV Bay and providing additional 11KV Switchgears at 33/11kV Katipalla Sub-Station in Kavoor division on Partial Turnkey Basis vide bid enquiry no. MESCOM/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT389/CALL-2

The interested eligible bidders may log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or **after 06.03.2026**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Proj)

DIPR/DK/MPL/1702/25-26

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY

Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.

Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124 Fax: 080-25196110 e-mail: info@kuidfc.com Website: www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2025-26/29/6003 Date: 05-03-2026

Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental compensation fund and SBM (U) 2.0 for the below mentioned projects from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl GST) Rs. in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	"Construction of sewerage system in **Srirangapatana town – Phase 2"** under NGT & SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model – **Call - 2**	**634.30**	**10.00**
2	"Construction of 3.85 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in **Someshwara town"** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model – **Call - 2**	**569.19**	**9.00**
3	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of 3.19 MLD capacity at **Chincholi ULB of Kalburgi District** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM/KLB_Pkg-9) Call-2**	**427.34**	**6.50**
4	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of capacity 3.03 & 3.37 MLD at **Aurad & Hallikhed-B** ULBs of **Bidar District**, 2.26 & 3.56 MLD at **Yelburga & Kustagi** ULBs of **Koppal District** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM/KLB_Pkg-7) - Call-2**	**1521.50**	**15.50**

1) Tender Publish Date: **06.03.2026.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **12.03.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **18.03.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **20.03.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **06.04.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.**

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6027/MAA/2025-26

ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ರಾಯಚೂರು
ಕಡಿಮೆ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕತೆಯ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ
(ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹುಡ್ಕೊದ ಅನುದಾನತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)

Deputy Commissioner Office , District Administration Building, Ground Floor Room No C-15, Eklaspur, RAICHUR- 584 103, e-Mail ID:pmnkrcr@gmail.com Contact No: Project Manager-9945494157

ಸಂ:ನಿಕೇರಾ:ಟೆಂಡರ್: NKR/2026-27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

1) ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ವಿವರ: ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು. **ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** NKR/2026-27/SE0003. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 20.03.2026 @17.00 PM. **ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜಾಲತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 11.03..2026 @ 11.00 AM @ Nirmithi Kendra, Raichur

ಸಹಿ/– ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/739/KSMCA/742/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,

ಸಂ: 26/2025–2026 **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2026**

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **KW-1/2/3/4** ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (1) ರಿಂದ (3) ಹಾಗೂ (8) ರಿಂದ (10) ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.03.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.03.2026** ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ; 25.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31** ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 6 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 6 (ಆರು),

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (4) ರಿಂದ (7) ಹಾಗೂ (11) ರಿಂದ (14) ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026** ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11–00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.03.2026** ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 12.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.03.2026** ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/3/4 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 8 (ಎಂಟು),

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.500.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.25.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2.** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

BILATERAL COOPERATION: India, Finland push for peace; Stubb backs New Delhi's UNSC bid

Modi calls for swift end to West Asia conflict

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With no immediate solution in sight to the escalating crisis in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for a "swift end" to the conflict, stressing that no issue can be resolved through military confrontation.

Modi made the remarks after wide-ranging talks with Finnish President Alexander Stubb in New Delhi, where the situation in West Asia featured prominently.

President Stubb began his four-day visit to India on Wednesday, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation.

"Both India and Finland believe in the rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy. We are in agreement that no issue can be resolved through military conflict alone," the prime minister said.

"Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support the swift end of conflicts and every effort towards peace," he added.

Modi also made a mention of the upswing in India-Europe relations during a joint press conference.

Stubb strongly backed India's bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council, arguing that it is of "utmost importance" along with larger reform of the global multilateral system to reflect the current geopolitical realities.

Modi also highlighted the deepening ties between India and Finland, noting that cooperation in digitalisation and sustainability is evolving into a full strategic partnership. This partnership will drive enhanced collaboration in several high-technology areas, including artificial intelligence, 6G telecom, clean energy and quantum computing.

Finland President Alexander Stubb and PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Ties with Finland

After talks with Finnish prez Stubb, PM stresses dialogue over military confrontation

Leaders discuss West Asia, Ukraine and global reforms

Modi highlights deepening India-Finland ties

India-Finland partnership expands into AI, 6G and clean energy

The two sides agreed to deepen cooperation in key sectors such as defence, space, semiconductors and critical minerals.

"The world is going through a period of instability and uncertainty. Conflict persists in many parts of the world, from Ukraine to West Asia. In such a global environment, India and Europe — two of the world's major diplomatic powers — are entering a golden period of their relations," Modi said.

The Finnish president said both sides deliberated on the conflict in West Asia and Russia's "war of aggression" against Ukraine.

"We agreed that ending the war is in everyone's interests. A lasting peace can only be one that respects the principles of the United Nations," he said.

In his remarks, Modi said the India-European Union free trade agreement will help deepen ties between New Delhi and Helsinki.

He also highlighted Finnish telecom giant Nokia's operations in India.

PM speaks with Macron, pushes for dialogue and diplomacy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron on the situation in West Asia and emphasised the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

After his telephonic conversation with Macron, Modi said they will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

"Spoke with my friend President Emmanuel Macron today. We discussed our shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy. We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," Modi said in a post on X.

PM Modi has already spoken to eight leaders of West Asia since the beginning of the military conflict.

In his phone calls with the West Asian leaders, Modi condemned the violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy, and thanked them for their continued support to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community living in their respective countries.

India offers condolences on Khamenei's death

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid criticism from Opposition parties over India's silence on the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Union government finally offered its condolences on Thursday, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri signing the condolence book at the Iranian Embassy here.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi, discussing the evolving situation in West Asia.

Though what transpired between them is not known, it was the second phone conversation between the two foreign ministers since February 28, when the US and Israel launched their attack on Iran.

Six days after Khamenei was killed in a joint strike on Tehran by the US and Israel, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited the Iranian embassy and signed the condolence book on the Union government's behalf, in what is being seen by many as a sign of a subtle shift in New Delhi's position on the conflict.

Misri also held a brief conversation with Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali. He also met Iranian deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh, who also visited the embassy to sign the condolence book.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri signs the condolence book at the Embassy of Iran, after the recent killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in New Delhi. PTI

Unlike in May 2024, when Jaishankar visited the Iranian embassy to mourn the death of then-president Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, New Delhi's response to the Supreme Leader's death was handled by the foreign secretary.

In the last few days, the Centre came under sharp attacks from the Opposition, with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi saying its silence on Khamenei's assassination raised serious questions about the direction and credibility of India's foreign policy.

Though India had called for a resolution of the West Asia crisis through dialogue and diplomacy, it had not reacted to Khamenei's killing.

New Delhi's condolences on Khamenei's killing also came a day after the US sank Iranian warship IRIS Dena in international waters off Sri Lanka's coast when it was returning home after participating in the naval exercise, a multilateral wargame hosted by India.

Jaishankar dials Iran foreign minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the widening West Asia crisis, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian counterpart Syed Abbas Araghchi on Thursday, but the Union government didn't disclose what transpired between the two ministers.

"Had a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi this afternoon," Jaishankar said in a one-line social media post. The Ministry of External Affairs has not shared any information on the nature of the discussions between the two leaders.

Jaishankar mentioned that he also spoke to Oman Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi about the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

The External Affairs Minister's conversation with Araghchi took place hours after the Iranian minister spoke about how the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena, a guest of India, was sunk by a US torpedo strike in international waters without warning.

Memorable moments of Iranian crew in India fade

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: Little did many crew members of Iranian warship Dena know that they would not be able to cherish the sweet memories they experienced in Visakhapatnam only few days ago. Be it the long walks in Rushikonda Beach or the visit to the salubrious Kailasagiri hills, the Iranian crew members had a good time in India.

The sailors spent cheerful days in Visakhapatnam during the multinational naval exercise MILAN 2026, interacting with residents and exploring the coastal city's popular landmarks.

During their stay between February 15 and 25, the sailors also participated in cultural tours organised under the Incredible India programme.

Some of them travelled to Agra to explore Taj Mahal and other historical destinations, experiencing India's heritage beyond the naval engagements and professional interactions.

"They (Iranians) were friendly young sailors, taking selfies with locals and enjoying the hospitality of Vizag," Sohan Hatangadi, a resident who interacted with them recalled.

Some Iranian sailors also visited Sankalp Art Village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam and spent time at the MILAN pavilion, where they were seen having tea and snacks while interacting with naval personnel and visitors.

Several sailors were also seen shopping for traditional Indian textiles, locals recalled.

Protests over Iran crisis ebb in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, DHNS: For the fifth straight day, large parts of the Valley remained under curbs on Thursday, but the scale of protests over the Iran crisis showed visible signs of ebbing, with fewer street gatherings and thinner crowds.

Security forces maintained a tight vigil across the Old City of Srinagar and other sensitive pockets, sealing key junctions with concertina wire and deploying additional personnel in Old City areas. The clock tower at the city centre, Lal Chowk, remained barricaded, though traffic movement was partially restored in adjoining markets.

While authorities did not formally invoke curfew, prohibitory measures restricting large assemblies continued in several districts. Schools and colleges remained shut for the fourth day, and mobile internet speeds remained restricted.

What is new, however, is a shift in administrative strategy. Instead of blanket shutdowns, police have moved to "micro-containment" approach, allowing movement in peripheral areas, and sealing protest-prone localities.

PM's surrender is political & moral: Cong

Rahul says India needs steady hand at wheel

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Thursday attacked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the United States sinking an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge claiming that the PM's "surrender is both political and moral."

Rahul Gandhi

Top leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that India needs a "steady hand at the wheel" and not a "compromised PM" at a time when the West Asia conflict has reached India's backyard.

The remarks came a day after a US submarine sank an Iranian warship in international waters off Sri Lanka's coast while it was returning after participating in a multilateral wargame hosted by India.

Rahul said, "The world has entered a volatile phase. Stormy seas lie ahead. India's oil supplies are under threat, with more than 40% of our imports transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The situation is even worse for LPG and LNG. The conflict has reached our backyard, with an Iranian warship sunk in the Indian Ocean. Yet the PM has said nothing."

"At a moment like this, we need a steady hand at the wheel. Instead, India has a compromised PM who has surrendered our strategic autonomy," he posted on X while Kharge said, the Modi government's "reckless abdication" of India's strategic and national interests is there for all to see.

Claiming that Modi "remains mute", Kharge asked why the country was lectured on the doctrines of 'Mahasagar' and India being a 'Net Security Provider' in the Indian Ocean Region, when the prime minister cannot react to what is happening in India's backyard.

"Clearly, Modi-ji's surrender is both political and moral. It demeans India's core national interests and destroys our foreign policy carefully and painstakingly built and followed by successive governments over the years," he said.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the US action has enormous implications for India and it is shocking that there has been no official response to it till now. "Never before has the Indian government looked so timid and fearful," he said.

Congress Media and Publicity Department chairman Pawan Khera said a US strike in India's maritime backyard shows that a distant power can use lethal force here without consequence – a "liberty it would never dare take with China in the South China Sea".

"That alone tells us that India has become a walkover for America and Israel - they can do what they want right under our nose and get away without a squeak from us. Yesterday's attack targeted Iran - but it also slighted and undermined India. The war is literally at our doorstep, and Modi's silence is anti-national," he said.

Congress wants India to blindly side with Iran: BJP

Lashing out at the Congress for wanting India to "blindly side with Iran", the BJP on Thursday said the country's foreign policy must be guided by national interest and the safety of its citizens, not by the compulsions of the opposition party's "outdated ideological reflexes".

Several BJP leaders, including Amit Malviya and Pradeep Bhandari, spoke on the issue, calling the Congress "anti-India" and alleging that the main opposition party pursues divisive politics.

It only loves its vote bank, not the country and its people, the ruling party said.

"Even China, which spent years diplomatically shielding Iran, overlooking its support for proxy terror groups and buying the bulk of its oil, is now distancing itself from Tehran," Malviya said in a post on X.

"Yet the Indian National Congress wants India to blindly side with Iran, even as it continues reckless actions across the Gulf, threatens vital oil shipping routes, and escalates tensions in a region where millions of Indians live and work," he said.

Indian Navy joined search & rescue ops for IRIS Dena

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Navy on Thursday said it joined the search and rescue operations for the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena, and its survey vessel INS Ikshak remains in the search area near the Sri Lankan coast looking for the remaining missing crew of the Iranian frigate.

The Iranian warship was returning home after participating in the International Fleet Review and Milan multilateral naval exercise hosted by India when a torpedo fired by a US submarine sank it.

At least 87 Iranian sailors were killed in the attack, while 32 were rescued, according to Sri Lankan authorities.

An Indian Navy spokesperson said a distress call from IRIS Dena was received at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Colombo in the early hours of March 4, as reported by the Sri Lankan Navy.

The ship was operating 20 nautical miles west of Galle in the search and rescue region under Sri Lankan responsibility.

Receiving the information, the Indian Navy joined the search and rescue efforts, deploying its long-range P8I maritime patrol aircraft at 10.00 am to augment the search efforts led by Sri Lanka.

Another aircraft with air-droppable life rafts was kept on standby for immediate deployment.

INS Tarangini, which was operating nearby, was deployed to aid the rescue efforts. The ship arrived in the search area by 4.00 pm on March 4, but by then, the search operations had been undertaken by the Sri Lankan Navy and other agencies.

"INS Ikshak has also sailed from Kochi to augment the search efforts and continues to remain in the area to search for missing personnel as a humanitarian measure for shipwrecked personnel. Coordination with the Sri Lankan side on Search and Rescue efforts is ongoing," the spokesperson said.

In Colombo, Navy spokesman Buddhika Sampath said authorities were continuing the search for missing sailors.

Government to re-prioritise gas allocation to different sectors

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the West Asia crisis hitting gas supply to India, the Union government is likely to re-prioritise gas allocation to different sectors.

If the gas supply tightens in the coming days, the situation may warrant re-prioritising gas supplies by imposing cuts on some users, said an official in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Supplies from alternate sources are being arranged to fill the gap, he said, adding the critical sectors, such as fertiliser, will be prioritised in supply to help meet peak sowing season needs.

State-run Gas Authority of India (Gail) said that allocation of LNG quantities to the company has been reduced to zero from March 4 due to supply restrictions imposed by Petronet LNG. "GAIL is currently assessing the situation with respect to any supply curtailment that may need to be imposed on its downstream customers," it said.

The Ministry officials said as much as 60 million standard cubic meters per day of gas supplies have been halted due to the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.

India consumes 195 million standard cubic meters per day of gas to generate electricity, produce fertiliser, turn into CNG to run automobiles, fire household kitchens and serve as feedstock for various industries.

LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have reportedly been suspended since February 28, temporarily stranding nearly 20% of global LNG supply and raising concerns across Asian import markets. Price-sensitive consumers, particularly industrial users and smaller gas distributors, could shift to alternate fuels such as fuel oil, naphtha or petroleum coke to manage rising costs.

Replacement LNG supplies could potentially come from the United States, West Africa, Australia or Russia, but longer shipping distances would raise freight costs and extend delivery times.

Kashmiri parents fear for children stranded in Iran

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

"What if I never hear his voice again?" sobbed Shabana Begum, clutching her phone as blasts lit up the evening sky hundreds of kilometres away in Iran.

For families in Kashmir whose children study in Iran, the fear that gripped them in June 2025 has returned. And with it comes the dread of losing children stranded amid a new and far more ferocious outbreak of war.

Shabana's son, a second-year medical student in Tehran, was among hundreds of Kashmiris pursuing professional courses in Iran when the Israel–Iran conflict first spiralled into open hostilities last year.

India's "Operation Sindhu" evacuated more than 4,400 Indian nationals, including hundreds of Kashmiri students, from war-hit cities in June 2025—a mission families called a lifeline.

But after months of uncertainty, many students returned to Iran to continue their studies, following official advisories and what seemed like a lull in hostilities.

In late February 2026, just days before the latest war erupted, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged students to heed the Government of India advisory and return home while commercial flights were still operational.

For parents, however, the advice came with a bitter cost.

"We borrowed money. He came back in June and then returned to complete exams," said Farooq Ahmed of Pulwama, his voice breaking. "Now he calls me every hour, telling me there are explosions near his hostel. How many times can we send our children back and forth? This is not a life, it is terror."

The current conflict has upended daily life for Kashmiri students in Iran. The Indian Embassy in Tehran has issued repeated advisories urging nationals to leave by available means, including commercial flights, even as hundreds of students remain in the country in high-risk areas, especially in and around Tehran.

Many students have been relocated by the embassy to relatively safer cities, but parents say internal moves offer little solace. "He was shifted from Tehran to Qom, but we hear explosions there too," said Zainab Mir, whose daughter is studying pharmacy in Iran. "Every blast sends chills through us."

Student bodies such as the J&K Students Association have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging a renewed evacuation plan before the situation worsens. With airspace volatility and commercial travel disrupted, families are now caught between escalating fear and dwindling options — reliving last year's trauma while praying for a much-needed rescue.

Hormuz closure brews trouble for Assam tea

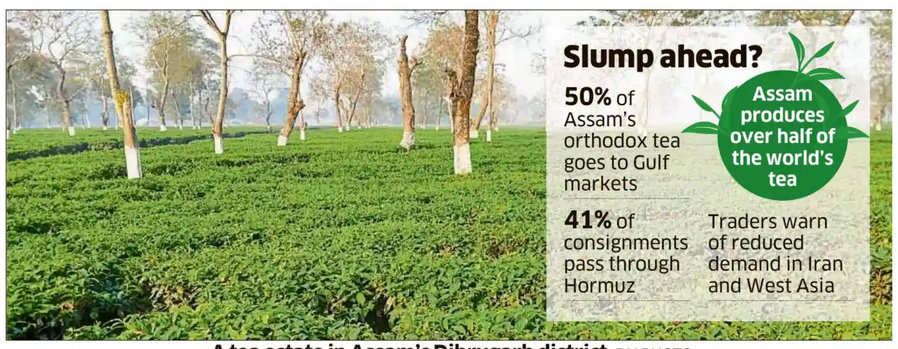
SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The sudden closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, following military strikes by Israel and the United States, has raised fears of a halt in India's tea exports, particularly the premium orthodox tea produced in Assam.

Nearly 50% of Assam's orthodox tea is exported to Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (eastern Gulf ports), and the United Arab Emirates, with 41% of consignments transported via the Strait of Hormuz.

Tea traders and estate owners in Assam fear that exports could be severely impacted unless the conflict eases and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz resumes.

"If one looks at the total tea export figures of 280 million kg achieved in 2025, almost 41% of India's tea exports passed through the Strait of Hormuz," noted Shailja Mehta, president of the Tea Association of India, a leading forum of tea estate owners and traders.


Slump ahead?
50% of Assam's orthodox tea goes to Gulf markets
Assam produces over half of the world's tea
41% of consignments pass through Hormuz
Traders warn of reduced demand in Iran and West Asia

A tea estate in Assam's Dibrugarh district. DH PHOTO

"The surge in export volumes was driven by a quantitative jump in orthodox teas, with Gulf countries registering significant growth. The ongoing war is bound to impact Indian tea exports, particularly Assam's orthodox tea," she said.

Promotion in vain?

With over 850 big tea estates and thousands of small tea gardens, Assam produces more than half of the tea in the world. The state has been trying to promote orthodox tea by offering incentives to growers to push exports.

Dinesh Bihani, secretary of Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association, said the potential impact on prices and trade disruption in Iran and other West Asian markets could reduce tea demand.

"If alternative global buyers do not absorb the surplus supply, prices, particularly for orthodox teas, may face downward pressure," he said.

He, however, noted that an immediate slump in prices is unlikely, given that the tea production season is yet to commence. Production will begin in March-April.

"But as the new season starts in Assam, with expectations of higher orthodox output, reduced demand from West Asia could trigger a sharp correction in orthodox prices," he said.

Since the domestic market for orthodox teas is limited and the bulk of production is export-oriented, any sustained disruption in demand from West Asia would directly affect the Indian tea industry, Bihani added.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A necessary reset for India, Canada

Bilateral relations between India and Canada have undergone a reset with the visit of Prime Minister Mark Carney, his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the agreements signed by the two countries. Relations came under severe strain during the tenure of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who had raised allegations of Indian involvement in the killing of Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Ties improved after Carney assumed office last year: high-level visits resumed, and talks on a trade agreement restarted. Beyond the bilateral reconnection, this presents an opportunity for the two countries, which have been affected by the United States' tariff policies, to strengthen their trade and economic partnership. In January, Carney called at the World Economic Forum for middle powers to come together to defend themselves against great power hegemony.

The most significant among the agreements signed is the $2.6-billion, 10-year deal involving the supply of Canadian uranium for Indian nuclear reactors. It transcends commercial interests and signifies a strong strategic collaboration. Greater cooperation in the nuclear domain has been envisaged, with a plan to build large and small reactors in India using Canadian expertise. The two countries also signed agreements on bilateral cooperation in renewable energy, cultural and technological exchanges, and critical minerals. The new Strategic Energy Partnership, which covers nuclear, LNG, solar energy, and hydrogen, will help India meet its growing energy needs. Both Prime Ministers affirmed that an India-Canada economic partnership agreement will be finalised by the end of this year, aimed at doubling bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030. This will extend already robust economic ties. Canada has made major investments in India in the last 25 years. About 600 Canadian companies now operate in India, while many Indian companies have a presence in Canada. A defence dialogue to support maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific has also been planned.

Renewed cooperation in energy and trade furthers reconnection efforts after years of diplomatic chill

Strong people-to-people relations between the two countries have been envisioned as part of the reset. Canada has an Indian diaspora of about 1.8 million Indo-Canadians and over a million non-resident Indians. There are about 400,000 Indian students in Canada, which is twice the number in the US and four times the number in the UK. Improved relations between the two countries can significantly elevate areas of mutual interest to domains of stable, long-term association. In this new round of agreements, India and Canada have an opportunity to reforge ties and make up for lost time.

Another credibility test for KPSC

The latest controversy surrounding the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) is depressingly familiar. Allegations of irregularities in the Gazetted Probationers (Group A and B) mains examination have once again shaken public confidence in an institution meant to be the guardian of merit. That Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh sought a detailed report from the Commission underscores the seriousness of the charges. Among the allegations are claims that 10 to 12 candidates who appeared from the same examination hall were shortlisted for the interview. This parallels the 2021 PSI recruitment scam during the BJP tenure, where students in specific rooms were allowed to indulge in malpractices and secure high ranks. Home Minister G Parameshwara has said accountability will be fixed if wrongdoing is established, but given the Commission's chequered history, public scepticism is understandable.

The Commission has flatly denied any malpractice. KPSC Secretary K Jyothi has termed the allegations baseless, arguing that with over 5,700 candidates and about 24 examinees per room, such clustering of ranks is statistically plausible. She has also said an internal verification is underway and that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Chief Secretary. That defence may be technically sound, but it does little to assuage public suspicion. Formed in 1951 as a constitutional body to insulate recruitment from political and personal influence, the KPSC's record has been marred by recurring scandals: the Gazetted Probationers scams of 1998-2004, the 2011 bribe-for-job expose that led to an entire recruitment being scrapped, and the 2023 Assistant Executive Engineer case involving OMR tampering. Each episode has eroded credibility. Little wonder that several government departments have chosen to bypass the Commission in recent years. But parallel recruitment processes have proved no cleaner, highlighting that corruption is systemic rather than institution- or party-specific.

As alleged irregularities erode public trust, transparency and stronger oversight become non-negotiable

The P C Hota Committee had earlier proposed reforms to cleanse the recruitment system, but most of its recommendations remain unimplemented. The answer does not lie in *ad hoc* workarounds but in comprehensive reform. People of proven integrity must be appointed not only at the helm but across operational levels. Corrupt officers and the ecosystem of touts must be dismantled. The Lokayukta must play a far more proactive role in safeguarding the sanctity of the selection process. Transparency, technological safeguards, and external oversight must be strengthened so that competence, not money or proximity, decides who serves the state. The KPSC must evolve into an institution where merit is the sole currency, rather than a marketplace where public offices are auctioned.

BEYOND KHAMENEI

No endgame in Trump's Iran gamble

The Islamic Republic's political structures are likely to endure, deferring the objectives of the US-Israel offensive

VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

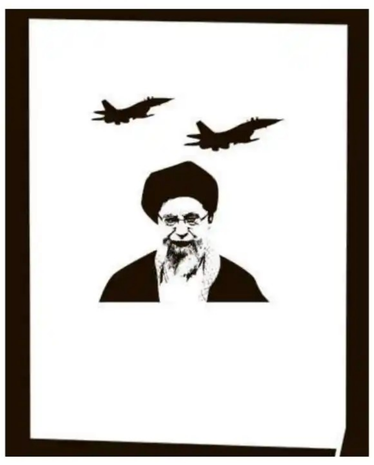
As the United States-Israel war against Iran threatens an extended phase of instability for West Asia, several questions remain unanswered. Is it, as economist and public policy analyst Jeffrey Sachs says, "a war for control of the Middle East... for control of the oil of the Middle East"?

Does this explain why President Donald Trump suddenly escalated his policy, on February 28, from Mar-a-Lago when three rounds of talks were already held in Geneva between his special representatives and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, even as he continued to assemble American forces around Iran? Why was February 28 chosen to launch 'Operation Epic Fury'? Elliott Abrams, senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), reported that the decision to attack Iran might have been made during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington on February 11.

Questions have arisen regarding links to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel two days before the attack. The operation had no connection with Modi's visit, according to the Israeli Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar. He said an "operational opportunity" that arose after Modi left Israel was granted final approval by Israel's security cabinet on the morning of February 28. This "operational opportunity" runs contrary to the negotiations that were going on. CFR, the New York-based think tank, in its February 26 daily news brief, quoted Oman's mediator as saying that both Iran and the US demonstrated "unprecedented openness to new and creative ideas and solutions" during the Steve Witkoff-Araghchi talks, and that both Trump and Araghchi maintained that "a deal is preferable." Was this leaked by Oman to prevent a war it did not want?

This was because most of the US allies currently targeted by Iran (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain) had changed their assessments of the threats from Iran. Chatham House, the London-based international affairs think tank, in its February 19 assessment, said Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt had changed their stance. These governments, which once urged the US to deal with Iran and the 'Axis of Resistance,' were advocating negotiations, considering that the "greatest risks are now an expansionist and aggressive Israel, and the chaos of a potentially collapsed Iranian State".

They were also worried that a change of regime in Iran, as in the case of what America did in Iraq, would revitalise the Islamic State. The final riddle is: Why didn't Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, move into a safe bunker when President Trump's and Prime Minister Netanyahu's public pronouncements made it clear he would be targeted?



The February 28 decision by Trump and Netanyahu to launch the operation compares implausibly with the White House announcement on February 12, after the Israeli Prime Minister's visit, that no "definitive" agreement was reached between the US and Israel on "how to move forward with Iran". Nor did Trump hint at this possibility in his State of the Union address on February 24. According to the assessment by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Trump dropped from his speech "much of the threatening language about the massive military buildup in the region".

The regime will resist

The only clue as to why this decision was changed is possibly the BBC's interpretation of the Mar-a-Lago statement that Trump and Netanyahu viewed "the Iranian leadership as at its weakest point domestically for years, with its allied militias in the region decimated after the Gaza war". Did Trump believe that this would be as easy as the Venezuela-Maduro operation? Or was this decision made only to benefit Netanyahu?

On March 3, Trump laid out his objectives for the war: destroying Iran's missile capabilities, annihilating its navy, ending its nuclear ambitions, preventing the arming of terrorists, and forcing regime change.

Are these objectives achievable? CFR, which did a survey, found it nearly impossible for the US and Israel to topple the theocratic regime even if Iran is heavily debilitated after the war. The reason is the very structure of the Islamic Republic, "an ideological system with a multi-layered elite and base of support". It is not a one-man show. Although all decisions were taken in the name of Khamenei, experts like Vali Nasr, author of *Iran's Grand Strategy: A Political History*, believe that in the multi-nodal Iranian theocracy and defence establishment, decisions are taken at different levels. He refers to a complex decision-making process involving the Assembly of Experts that determines succession and advises the supreme leader, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and the clerical councils.

This is probably why the IRGC's Quds Force was not blunted even after the US killed Qasem Soleimani on January 3, 2020. Soleimani was the most charismatic and most feared face of the Quds Force, which focuses on unconventional warfare and extraterritorial operations. The system of decentralisation "still provides the regime with a cadre prepared to use force to maintain power". Middle East experts say that the theocracy will likely survive the latest bombing – "battered and bruised but standing".

Ray Takeyh, senior fellow for Middle East Studies at the CFR, believes that the West could have secured better dividends without this war. He says that Araghchi had tabled proposals that called for the suspension of uranium enrichment for several years before allowing it to then resume at low levels. Linda Robinson, CFR's senior fellow, also feels that there will be mass American casualties if special forces are deployed. The consensus among CFR experts is that Trump's ambitious objectives cannot be achieved merely with joint assaults by air or sea.

Finally, contrary to what Trump said about Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that he was "unable to avoid American intelligence", there are indications that Khamenei, in the true spirit of "martyrdom", chose to remain outside his bunker.

(The writer is a former special secretary, Cabinet Secretariat; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Losing rank, gaining insight

Discipline is not confined to uniforms or drill grounds—it is in the mind

I P ANAND

'Cadets! *Shaam paanch bajay* Major *Saab ke samnay pheeti waalon ka parade hoga*!'

The announcement came almost as soon as we had arrived and settled in the NCC camp. As a proud rank holder, I felt instantly important. Puffed up with pride, I began to await the evening ceremony with great eagerness.

We assembled well before time. At exactly five o'clock, Major *Saab* arrived. Elegantly attired in military uniform, with the national emblem shining on his broad shoulders, he looked smart, authoritative, and unmistakably strict. His very presence inspired awe.

The proceedings began with inspection. The Major moved down the line, minutely examining uniforms, belt buckles, boots, haircuts, and even nails. When he stopped before me, my confidence faltered. I was placed among those declared "poorly dressed"—our uniforms wrinkled and boots insufficiently polished. The consolation that others shared my fate helped little; my spirits had already sunk.

Next came the parade. "*Saavdhaan! Vishraam! Aagay badh! Peechay mud!*" Commands rang out sharply. Still smarting from the inspection, I tried to keep pace, but my half-heartedness hampered it from happening. I missed steps, lost rhythm, and struggled through the exhausting forty minutes.

Then came the verdict. I stood among four cadets declared "not fit for the rank". My cherished chevron—the badge of my being a Lance Naik—was removed. It was humiliation piled upon humiliation. This time, even shared misfortune brought no comfort. I could only accept the setback in silence.

The camp schedule, however, allowed little time for self-pity. For the next ten days we were immersed in drill and parade; tracking and patrolling; rifle practice; and camouflage and concealment. Gradually, the sting of that first day faded into the rigour of routine.

The final day arrived with the valedictory function, which included a cultural programme. Many hesitated to perform before the imposing Major, but some senior students broke the ice. My friends then urged me to sing a *ghazal*. Reluctantly, I agreed and began my favourite, *Marne ki duayen ki un maangoon*...

As I sang, my initial hesitation dissolved. The familiar melody steadied me; confidence replaced nervousness. The audience responded warmly, and by the final couplets, several voices joined in. What had begun timidly ended on a note of shared enjoyment.

The real surprise came during the Major's address.

Referring to my performance, he observed that the involvement I displayed while singing had been missing during the parade. His remark was neither harsh nor sarcastic—simply perceptive. Yet it struck home with remarkable clarity. He had noticed not just what I did, but how I did it.

In that moment, disappointment turned into understanding. The loss of my chevron was not merely a disciplinary action; it was a lesson. I had taken one responsibility casually while giving my whole heart to another. The difference lay not in ability, but in attitude.

That camp taught me something no textbook could: discipline is not confined to uniforms or drill grounds—it is a habit of mind. Whatever we undertake deserves our full commitment. Certainly, sometimes we win; sometimes we learn — and often, it's losing that leaves us learned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shameful surrender to casteism

Your editorial 'Deep discrimination, cosmetic fix' (March 5) rightly condemns the caste discrimination in Shingatalur village, Gadag district, where Dalits were denied haircuts by local barbers citing a "religious tradition". The Karnataka government's decision to open a separate government-run shop for Dalits is a shameful indictment of our society, 76 years after Independence. All citizens are equal, yet some are treated as 'more equal' than others. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". It's time to fight against such discrimination and uphold the Constitution's ideal of Equality.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Security for Indians abroad

Apropos 'Indian labour in wartime Israel' (Mar 5), the growing presence of Indian workers in global labour markets raises concerns about safety in conflict-affected regions. While opportunities provide better livelihoods, stronger safeguards are essential. Transparent recruitment, enforceable contracts and proactive consular support can protect workers. Economic opportunity should go hand-in-hand with dignity and security for Indian citizens working abroad.

Sakshi Kumari, Bengaluru

Be considerate

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission's tariff hike for commercial units and reduction for agricultural pumpsets is noted. However, suitable relief could be considered for establishments suffering losses, based on audit reports.

A K Shariff, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Nitish's tenure as CM (of Bihar) will be remembered as a golden chapter in Bihar's history.

Babulal Marandi, Jharkhand Assembly LoP

Praise undeserved, is satire in disguise.

Alexander Pope

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When AI mirrors gender biases

A feminist approach will help data design to be more inclusive, preventing a replication of society's biases

VARSHA SINGH

The recent India AI Impact Summit, while showcasing the country's advancing technological capabilities, also raised concerns over AI's ethical inconsistencies. It is now accepted that biases entrenched in society are reflected and amplified by algorithms and AI-based products. This can be traced to inherently discriminatory training datasets and unequal modes of data collection.

Industries are increasingly employing AI systems to make important decisions at a brisker pace. Algorithms are deployed by companies to shortlist candidates for hiring, by financial institutions to offer credit to customers, by healthcare workers to prioritise candidates for vaccines, and in multiple other fields. However, since these algorithms are a reflection of the prevalent norms of society due to the data fed into them, the resultant gender bias may reinforce stereotypes and discriminate against women.

A feminist lens is essential for identifying and eliminating gender bias in the data economy. The times call for a scrutiny of data science from the perspective of what is being termed "data feminism".

In 2018, Amazon landed in controversy when its automated system to sort resumes of job applicants rejected women's applications. The algorithm's preference was based on the statistics of the company's existing workforce, which consisted mostly of men. The AI was trained to reject women's candidature on detecting terms like "female", "women's college" or "women's team" on their resumes. This demonstrates how technology can perpetuate existing biases.

Consumer credit industries have faced criticism for discriminating against women in the allocation of credit. In a striking case of algorithmic bias, a 2019 incident revealed that a woman and her husband reported the same income, expenses, and debt, but a credit card company set the woman's credit limit to almost half the amount allotted to her husband.

Moreover, feedback loops between data inputs and outputs tend to reinforce existing stereotypes and prejudices about gender roles. For instance, translation software often translates gender-neutral English terms into stereotypical, gendered words in other languages, such as Spanish. A researcher noted that a translation application would convert "the doctor" and "the nurse" in English to "*el doctor*" and *"la enfermera"* in Spanish, reinforcing the notion that doctors are male and nurses are female.

Similarly, many image recognition technologies have been reported for bias in images corresponding to occupations. A study observed this during a keyword search on a platform: for "nurse," 80% of the generated images were of females, while searching for "CEO," only 10% of the images shown were of females. In reality, about 30% of the CEOs of leading businesses are women. Such search results and translations feed into existing prejudices and mislead people about women in the workforce.

Inclusion through participatory design

Humans generate and collect data that goes into the training modules; humans determine which datasets algorithms can learn from to make predictions. These stages can introduce human biases in an algorithm, affirming a reality – data cannot be truly neutral. Such biases in algorithms can be reformed by using a more participatory process or developing better training data modules that accommodate diverse genders and communities. Another promising way to correct these gender biases would be to improve diversity by increasing the representation of women in the tech industry.

Prioritising gender justice in data science can help in creating more functional AI systems. A 2020 study by Bo Cowgill *et al.* has shown that diverse demographic groups are better at reducing algorithmic bias. Participatory design in the development of technologies would ensure gender sensitivity. Bias in data collection can also be avoided if the data analyst employs personal modes of collection, such as crowdsourcing. A 2019 UNESCO report on embedding gender equality into AI principles is an important document in this regard. Moving past the gender binary, valuing multiple forms of knowledge, and using data to challenge unequal power structures are some healthy practices that could help fill gender gaps in data. The National Council of German Women's Organisations has published a policy paper titled 'Achieving a gender-equitable digital transformation', wherein scholars have come together to devise ethical principles for designing gender-sensitive datasets.

Improving the approach to design and management of AI systems can ensure a more just and representative world. Ethical data governance should be a top priority for all stakeholders involved. Conversations on gender are vital in creating inclusive, socially beneficial data systems and AI. The challenges are manifold, but as long as critical enquiry is not muted, there is hope.

(The writer is a judge based in Rajasthan, with an avid interest in gender studies and human rights)

'BRS failed, now Cong is failing the state. Will fight for Telangana identity, welfare'

Former MLC and Telangana Jagruthi founder K Kavitha, suspended from the BRS founded by her father and Telangana patriarch K Chandrashekar Rao, is now gearing up to launch a new political party. Fresh from her acquittal by a trial court in the Delhi excise policy scam case and receiving a steady stream of visitors offering congratulations, Kavitha spoke to DH about how the Rouse Avenue court's verdict exposes the misuse of State agencies. Excerpts:

K Kavitha, *Telangana Jagruthi founder and former MLC, in conversation with* **S N V Sudhir**

THE DEEP TAKE

● What is your reaction to the Delhi court's verdict on the excise policy case?

The verdict has fully exposed the victimisation and political motivation behind this false case. We have said from the beginning that we had nothing to do with it. We are clean, and the court's judgment has reinforced that. Moreover, the court's comments on certain matters are revealing. It exposes how agencies were misused, especially regarding regionalism. How can you label someone from a "south group", club people together, and attribute wrongdoing based on who they are rather than on what they've done wrong? Another statement is that you may curtail a person's freedom, but how will you give it back once proven wrong? That's what happened to me. My teenage child was writing board exams when I was sent to jail; that time cannot be brought back. The stress my son, my family, and I endured, plus the damage to reputation over four years, was horrible for a woman. The online harassment peaked in my case.

● You also spoke about the misuse of agencies by governments.

One hundred percent. I believe it is the first time in history where the court ordered a probe into one investigating officer—I gathered this from newspapers, as I haven't read the full judgment yet. That shows how the judiciary sliced through the web of lies, getting to the bottom of the issue. They refused to frame charges based on mere allegations, deeming them baseless without concrete logic—nothing but a political vendetta. The court has established this fact, and I'm happy to be out peacefully.

● Going forward, what are your plans?

We will launch a political party in the next two months—a regional, Telangana-focused party. I will work to restore people's faith in the Telangana cause and identity. In the last 12 years, that faith has faded. BRS ignored those who fought for the state; Congress welcomed everyone else but sidelined Telangana's people, identity, and culture, which we fought for all those years. My party's motherboard will be Telangana; the rest will follow.

● When you say the last 10 years, that includes BRS (or TRS) rule under your father, K Chandrashekar Rao. Are you saying BRS, too, failed in restoring the Telangana spirit or culture?

See, I was part of BRS for 10 years but expelled in the last eight months. In my Janambata tour of Telangana during my suspension, I first apologised to families of Telangana martyrs and those who fought for the state. Despite being in a party that fought for Telangana, I couldn't do much, but I will now. I stand by that. I take my share of responsibility in the party's negativities, no doubt. Now, after 12 years, going to people previously confined to Nizamabad by protocol, strategy, or design, I've visited Adilabad and the poorest areas like Achampet and Mahbubnagar. No change since the days of the agitation: the same villages, the same situations. Over the past 12 years, BRS failed them; Congress is failing them now. Someone must voice it and fight, and I am taking that forward, hoping for people's support.

● Can you replace the BRS as opposition? With the BJP, BRS, and ruling Congress already there, is there space?

The BJP and BRS failed to expose Congress' failures, so Congress won municipalities despite doing nothing, not even providing uninterrupted power. Why did urban voters choose Congress? No opposition stood tall calling out failures. We aim to play that role now and hope to come to power after elections. Whom am I fighting? BRS, Congress, BJP – everybody. No allies now. My primary interest is Telangana's people. Congress did nothing for Telangana; the BJP did nothing; the BRS tried but failed in core areas – *Neelu* (water), *Nidhulu* (budget), and *Niyamakalu* (jobs) – that we fought for. Fail there, and what's left? That's what my village travels reveal. Meagre changes in most places, nothing in many after 12 years.

● You're compared to Y S Sharmila, who folded her party in Telangana...

It's sad a woman launching a party gets compared to another woman who did. But many men launched and failed, like Devender Goud, Chiranjeevi, Indra Reddy, Chenna Reddy, and hundreds more. It's unfair to compare. Our histories are different. I'm not Sharmila; she's not me. I'm like KCR. Compare me to him; he floated a party and succeeded. Why not think I can too? It may take time, but you can't compare apples and oranges.

China announced a 7% increase in military spending and a five-year plan to try to reduce its military and industry's reliance on Western technology

CHRIS BUCKLEY AND LILY KUO

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

In a riskier era, China bets on tech to resist US pressure

From its strikes on Iran to its global tariffs, the United States has wielded military force and economic threats to impose its will. China's top leader, Xi Jinping, is preparing for this era of perilous rivalry by pouring resources into artificial intelligence, quantum computing and other strategic technologies, while also expanding the country's armed forces.

Details of Xi's ambitious plan for the next five years of China's technological ascent were released at a meeting of the national legislature in Beijing on Thursday. The approach reflects Xi's view that competition with the US will ultimately be decided by technological innovation that drives economic, military and cultural strength.

The plan calls for fostering new engines of economic growth in emerging industries like quantum computing, bio-manufacturing, hydrogen and fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied intelligence and 6G mobile networks. "In the midst of fierce international competition, we must win the strategic initiative," the plan said.

As China's relationship with the US has deteriorated, threatening Beijing's access to US technology, leaders in Beijing see achieving self-reliance as ever more urgent. Xi himself said in October that China should "seize this window of opportunity to consolidate and expand our advantages."

Even as Xi is preparing to host President Donald Trump in early April to try to extend a trade truce, he is doubling down on a strategy of ensuring that China's economy and military are not vulnerable to being cut off from advanced semiconductors and other critical technologies from the West.

"Chinese leaders have a view that Washington will continue trying to constrain China's technological development," said Gerard DiPippo, an associate director of the China Research Centre at Rand, a research organisation. "That belief underpins the urgency behind self-reliance efforts."

The plan said China would "continuously enhance" the country's competitive advantage in rare earths, exports of which Beijing had restricted in response to the US tariffs, before the two sides agreed to pause retaliatory measures. Separately, the plan also called for strengthening China's ability to counter sanctions and foreign interference.

The ongoing US-Israeli strikes on Iran and America's attack on Venezuela in January—which led to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and takeover of that country's oil industry—may have deepened Chinese leaders' wariness of Trump, said Daniel R Russel, a former assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

"Donald Trump may think he is demonstrating military strength that will intimidate Beijing," said Russel, a distinguished fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "But his actions in Venezuela and Iran are more likely to drive Beijing's determination to harden its capacity to resist the US and to tighten its alignment with Russia."

To fortify China against perceived threats, Xi is also committed to a continued buildup of the People's Liberation Army forces, even after eviscerating its high command with purges that have removed his top generals and left key leadership posts vacant. The government said Thursday that it would increase its military spending by 7% this year relative to last year, bringing its outlay to about $277 billion—about one-third of the Trump administration's proposed military spending for the 2026 fiscal year.

But Xi has indicated that long-term victory depends less on raw spending and more on the country's ability to dominate industries of the future. The new plan calls for technological breakthroughs, including in the development of medicines as well as in deep sea mining and fusion energy research. The term "artificial intelligence" is cited over 50 times.

In areas like AI, robotics, quantum computing and 6G, "I think there's a strong sense among China's policymakers that they can take the lead over the US," said Kyle Chan, a fellow at the Brookings Institution focusing on China's industrial policies.

The goals laid out in the plan are like "huge flashing lights that orient central bureaucrats, local officials, domestic companies and multinationals on the country's priorities for the next five years," said Scott Kennedy, a researcher at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and the author of a new study of China's drive for technological breakthroughs. **The New York Times**

Sets economy's growth target below 5% for first time in decades

Every March, China's leaders gather in Beijing's Great Hall of the People to announce how much the world's second-largest economy is expected to grow that year. It doesn't change much from year to year.

On Thursday, the target for 2026 was set at between 4.5% and 5%. It was the first time in more than three decades that the benchmark was placed below the 5% mark, and represents an official acknowledgment that China is on a slower growth path.

The announcement came at the start of the National People's Congress, the meeting of China's Communist Party-controlled legislature, when leaders reveal the government's main economic and policy priorities for the year. The unveiling of the growth target is followed closely by financial markets because it lays out the expectations of the country's officials, including China's leader, Xi Jinping. In a political system heavily directed from top levels, the number can offer clues about plans for economic policymaking.

Speculation over whether the target would be below 5%, where it has been for the past three years, was a parlour game among China watchers.

Dan Wang, a director on Eurasia Group's China team, said the government is aware of the domestic economic problems and the lower target signals that it is willing to tolerate slower near-term growth while it focuses on longer-term structural fixes.

In addition to the growth target, China said its central budget deficit would be around 4% of the size of the economy, or gross domestic product—roughly in line with last year's level. The deficit target sets a direction for central government borrowing, which can offer hints about plans for fiscal stimulus. But provincial and local governments also do a lot of borrowing.

In recent years, China has endured downward pressures in its domestic economy. A trade war with President Donald Trump, currently in an uneasy truce, has caused China to redirect its considerable exports, pressuring businesses and causing factories to scramble for new markets. **NYT**

Equality vs tradition in Mizoram

ABIGAIL CHINZAH

The Mizoram Legislative Assembly's unanimous passage of the Mizo Marriage and Inheritance of Property (Amendment) Act in February 2026 marks a revision of customary family law in the state. The amendment bans polygamy and bigamy, requires divorcees to produce a divorce certificate before remarriage, and allows women to claim up to half of property acquired jointly during marriage in the event of separation. These measures aim to modernise Mizo customary law by strengthening women's economic rights and reinforcing monogamous marriage norms.

Yet the legislation also introduces a controversial clause on inter-community marriage that has triggered debate over gender equality and identity rights. Under the amended law, Mizo women who marry non-Mizo men lose their recognised Mizo identity and are no longer eligible for the protections of the Act, including their children's entitlement to Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. This departs from the earlier 2014 Act, which applied to all Mizos regardless of whom they married. In effect, the amendment applies only when both spouses are Mizo or when the husband is Mizo, excluding Mizo women who marry outside the community.

Some provisions are widely viewed as progressive, particularly the prohibition of polygamy, which codifies what had long been a social norm in Mizoram, where Christian values discouraged bigamous marriages. More significantly, the Act introduces property rights for women by allowing a divorced spouse, usually the wife, to claim up to 50% of jointly acquired matrimonial assets. This addresses criticism that customary laws treated women as outsiders and provides greater economic security after divorce. By recognising contributions of both partners, the amendment moves towards gender parity in marital property rights.

However, these reforms have been overshadowed by the identity clause on inter-community marriages. Chief Minister Lalduhoma explained that traditional Mizo custom viewed a woman marrying outside the tribe as "entering" her husband's family and losing her place in the Mizo community. Under the new law, if a Mizo woman marries a non-Mizo man, she forfeits her Mizo identity, and her children become ineligible for ST status and reservation benefits. In contrast, Mizo men who marry non-Mizo women retain their tribal identity and pass it to their spouses and children. Mizoram's largest women's organisation, the Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP), demanded withdrawal of the amendment, calling it "unsafe" and "inadequate" for women. Activists and members of the Mizo diaspora argue that the law legitimises a discriminatory double standard by penalising women who marry outside the community. Supporters argue the amendment reflects long-standing customary practices and the right of tribal communities to define membership. In the Assembly debate, legislator Baryl Vanneihsangi stated the measure would help prevent cultural assimilation and preserve Mizo identity. According to customary understanding, lineage traditionally follows the male line.

Nevertheless, the provision raises constitutional concerns, as Indian constitutional principles, particularly equality before the law, sit uneasily with gender-based distinctions in identity rights. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that caste or tribal status is primarily determined by birth and cannot automatically be lost through marriage. It has also affirmed that a woman does not lose her SC or ST status by marrying outside her community and that children may claim such status through the mother's lineage if raised within that social environment. Even the government circulars cited in support of the amendment, including a 1977 Home Ministry note and a 2019 directive from the Ministry of Social Justice, do not endorse a blanket prohibition. They emphasise case-by-case evaluation and allow the possibility that children raised within their mother's tribal community may qualify for tribal certification.

The amendment reflects a broader tension between tribal autonomy and constitutional equality. While Article 371G grants Mizoram authority over customary laws, such autonomy does not exist outside democratic and constitutional values. The state's legal review committee, including representatives from women's organisations, did not unanimously support the identity clause, and the chief minister acknowledged the need for further review. For now, the law remains in force, though its implications remain uncertain.

(The writer is a PhD scholar, Department of Political Science, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

90 bus passengers feared dead

Mandya, March 5

About 90 persons were killed today when a private bus carrying nearly 100 passengers plummeted into the Maddur Main Canal at Dudda, near here. A marriage party from Honnenahalli and a group of devotees coming from a *jatra* at Mathigere were in the bus. At 7-15 a.m, Chinna Thambi, a mason, who lives on the bank of the canal, saw the bus coming from Jakkanahalli to Mandya, swerve from the entrance of the bridge and plunge into the canal water, knocking down, in the process, a 11-year-old cowherd Andani into the canal. The boy died on the spot.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Jaya drops Cong, TMC; strikes deal with PMK

Chennai, March 5

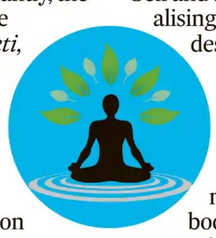
AIADMK general secretary J Jayalalitha today slammed the door on the Congress (I) and the Tamil Manila Congress by striking a separate deal with the PMK for the coming elections to the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Assemblies and starting formal seats-sharing talks with the two left parties. Exasperated by the procrastination by the Congress, which has made an issue of the entry of the pro-LTTE PMK into the front and its claim for Chief Ministership of Pondicherry, Ms Jayalalitha signed an agreement with PMK.

OASIS | R ESWARAN

Realisation through assertion and negation

The Supreme Self is realised through two distinct yet complementary processes: assertion and negation. The scriptures lay out these two pathways with great clarity. Negation removes the unreal, and assertion establishes the real. Both together lead to the discovery of one's true nature.

Negation concerns itself with removing all that is unreal. This is done through logic, reason, *pratyaksha*, *anumana*, *upamana*, and other valid means of knowledge available to an individual. To understand that the world is temporary, that whatever is born will die, that everything is constantly changing—one does not need a *shastra*. If you have a basic intellect and if your eyes are open, you will know it. *Shastra* is not required to teach that which is obvious. Predominantly, the *shastra*'s methodology is the process of negation: *neti, neti, neti*. Yet negation alone is not sufficient. One must also assert the real.



We wonder how can we assert that which I do not yet know? The answer lies in the *shastra*. While negation can be carried out through personal observation and logical reasoning, assertion requires *shraddha*—a deep trust in the scriptures. Without this trust, one cannot make the leap from the known to the Real.

The goal is *jivatma–paramatma aikyam*—the oneness of the individual Self and the Supreme Brahman. Realising this oneness is the ultimate destination of life.

What is Unreal? Unreal is that which has a dependent temporary existence. That which has a beginning and an end. Applying this we arrive at the gross, subtle, causal body along with their *gunas* as unreal. All that is known, all that is conceived of, is unreal. But the "I" is real. The error lies in the associations like When you say I am the body, the body is unreal. The "I" that pervades these associations is not unreal. Only what the "I" identifies with is unreal. The pure *aham* alone is real.

Negation may be possible without the aid of the *shastra*, but assertion is impossible without *shraddha*.

Hence the scripture declares *Vidyad aikyam mahavakyai*. The *mahavakyas* reveal the oneness of the individual self and the universal self. Any statement in Vedanta that reveals the identity of the individual Self with the universal Self is a *mahavakya*. A *mahavakya* does not offer a new definition of God nor provide a new experience of God. Its role is simple and direct: to reveal the truth of oneness, which is already the case.

Andhra Pradesh mulls Rs 25,000 for second child in population push

Incentive for every birth from 2nd child, additional Rs 1,000 monthly for 3rd child

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

NOT KIDDING

- CM Naidu sounds alarm on state's fertility fall
- Draft policy offers cash, care and education incentives
- Sterilisation incentives scrapped, 'population care' unveiled

Andhra Pradesh is aiming to encourage families to have more than one child. On Thursday, the state unveiled a draft 'Population Management' policy, offering financial incentives for childbirth—Rs 25,000 for every second child or more at delivery under the 'Poshan Shiksha Suraksha Package'.

For a third child, parents will receive an additional Rs 1,000 monthly nutrition incentive until the age of five, free education up to 18 in public/residential schools, and wellness benefits.

The government also plans to scrap sterilisation incentives, calling them "perverse". It aims to cut reliance on such measures by more than 50% from current levels, shifting away from targets and coercion towards a model of "population care", where the state enables and families decide.

Andhra Pradesh's total fertility rate (TFR) has fallen from 3.0 in 1992-93 to 1.5 now. By 2047, the government believes the 60+ age group will rise to 23% of the overall population, up from the current 10%.

Ageing crises

Expressing alarm over the steep drop in TFR, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, while unveiling the draft population policy in the Assembly, warned that it threatens economic growth by reducing the pool of young workers—a trend that mirrors the ageing crises in Japan, South Korea, and Italy. Naidu hailed the incentives as a game-changer for population efforts.

The policy introduces a five-pillar lifecycle of Matrutva, Shakti, Naipunyam, Kshema and Sanjeevani. Childcare for every 50 kids, pink toilets, she-cabs for safety and Rs 172 crore for working women's hostels in Visakhapatnam are also part of the policy.

"This is human capital investment with 10x returns, making Andhra healthy, wealthy and happy," Naidu said.

The draft is open to public feedback for 30 days.

Seven Class X students booked for sexually abusing juniors

NASHIK, PTI: Seven Class X students of a hostel run by the Maharashtra social welfare department in Igatpuri in Nashik have been booked for allegedly sexually abusing some of their juniors, an official said on Thursday.

The superintendent of the hostel has also been booked in the case filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at Igatpuri police station on March 3, he added.

"A case has been filed against seven Class X students and the hostel superintendent, while an inquiry is being carried out by the Child Welfare Committee," district collector Ayush Prasad said.

As per sources, the seven Class students are accused of giving sedatives to those from Class V-VII staying in the same hostel and then indulging in unnatural acts.

"The ordeal was underway since the last seven months but no one had come forward to complain out of fear. However, we found that the victims had informed hostel superintendent Sushant Dudhsagare, who did not take cognisance. Therefore, he too has been named in the case," an official said.

The seven students have been sent to a remand home, a police official said.

UP seer set for cow protection march; accuses CM of inaction

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Prominent Hindu seer Swami Avimukteshwaranand, the 'Shankaracharya' of 'Jyotish Peeth', will embark on a 'Gau Dharmyuddh' (a crusade to protect cows) march from Varanasi to Lucknow on Saturday.

According to reports, the march will end on 'Sheetla Ashtami' on March 11 in Lucknow with a meeting to be attended by a large number of saints, seers and religious leaders from across the country.

Avimukteshwaranand said that he was forced to undertake the march as the state government failed to concede his demands to declare the cow 'Rajya Mata' (state mother) and impose a total ban on beef export from the state.

He said that he had given Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath 40 days to agree to his demands, but nothing was done in this regard. "The chief minister still has six days to concede to his demands," he added.

The seer, who has been engaged in a war of words with Adityanath after the former was prevented from taking a holy dip in the Ganga during the recently concluded 'Magh Mela' (an annual ritual on the banks of the Ganga) in Prayagraj and alleged police action against his disciples, said that cow protection was not only a religious issue but also a social and cultural responsibility.

The march will start after performing puja at the famous Sankat Mochan Temple in Varanasi and will pass through Jaunpur, Sultanpur, Raebareli and Unnao districts before culminating in Lucknow. Meetings will be held at all these places.

The seer's decision to go ahead with the march seems to have divided the state government, with Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya saying that he would "welcome" the seer when he arrives in Lucknow.

SC orders inquiry into convict's claim of being minor in 1983 murder case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ordered an inquiry into the claim of a man who stated that he was a minor at the time of murder in 1983, in which he was convicted by the apex court in 2023.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta noted that as per the proviso to Section 9(2) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the plea of juvenility may be raised before any court and it would be recognised at any stage, even after final disposal of the case.

A Meerut court had in 1989 convicted the petitioner, along with two others, in a 1983 murder case. His appeal was dismissed by the Allahabad High Court in 2022 and the Supreme Court in 2023.

By a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, the man claimed he was born on February 1, 1968. In this respect, he relied upon a copy of the scholar register cum transfer certificate issued by the school on February 12, 1983, and the birth certificate of April 19, 2024, issued by the Gram Panchayat, Makarandpur Ogti.

He urged the court to extend the benefit of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. The state counsel opposed the plea, contending it had been raised belatedly, nearly 42 years after the incident.

Referring to Rahul Kumar Yadav Vs State of Bihar (2024), the bench said, this court examined the proviso to Section 9(2) of the JJ Act, and held that the plea of juvenility may be raised before any court and it shall be recognised at any stage, even after the final disposal of the case.

"In view of the precedents and the fact that the petitioner has placed on record documents prima facie indicating his date of birth, which, when considered in the context of the date of commission of the offence, would bring him within the definition of a juvenile or a child in conflict with law," the bench said.

The court thus directed the Sessions Judge, Meerut, to either by himself or through any other Additional Sessions Judge, get conducted an inquiry into the date of birth of the petitioner according to the procedure provided under the JJ Act.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

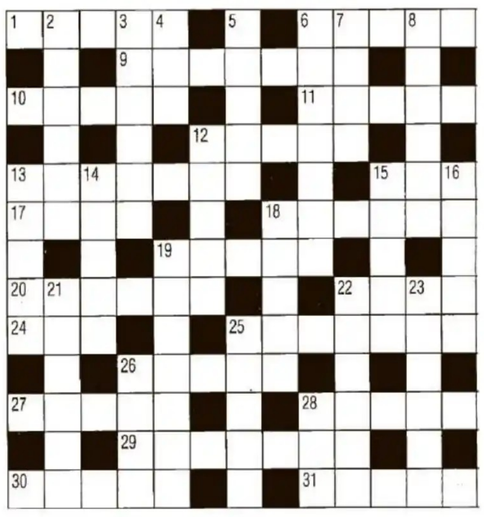
SARGE SEEMS DEPRESSED
THE MEN GAVE HIM A RESTAURANT GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR HIS BIRTHDAY
...IT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS BEFORE HE COULD USE IT
$50 !!
GREG + MORT WALKER

Peanuts

Marvin

MY MOM GOT ASSIGNED TO THE OTHER CLASSROOM. SHE CAN'T EMBARRASS ME NOW!
REALLY? THIS WEEK THAT CLASS IS STUDYING HYGIENE
...AND YOUR MOM IS SHOWING THEM YOUR BATHTUB PHOTOS ON HER PHONE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12368



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Impertinence when out of bread? (5)
6 It's fun being a rogue! (5)
9 Unimportant figure in legal proceedings (7)
10 Transport by motor and railway (5)
11 Trick a pet companion (5)
12 Like the way of stars (5)
13 Told within the family (7)
15 Succeed in hitting a reduced target (3)
17 First fellow to have a mare (4)
18 She gets the wrong angle on an article (6)
19 Living creature (5)
20 See a complaint as something tasteful (6)
22 Weary of a strange rite (4)
24 Athenian bird? (3)
25 Intermediary, and a little bent, outwardly! (7)
26 Val takes it to be essential (5)
27 Up in the air, slip out of the way (5)
28 Girl from Tangier (5)
29 It provides for the rest of the audience (7)
30 Is cruel to a wild beast (5)
31 End of the ad, perhaps (5)

DOWN
2 Raised by the chap at the back (6)
3 Star me as a runner (6)
4 As an essay, a pointless entry (3)
5 Do without an empty space (5)
6 Discharging certain material (7)
7 Perform a dramatic piece musically (4)
8 She conceals her heartache in different ways (6)
12 Man behind me in a race (5)
13 Landed property managed by some charity (5)
14 Language resembling Latvian in parts? (5)
15 Lamp spirit? (5)
16 Accepted with thanks by a boy (5)
18 Flying station in London? (5)
19 In any case, Sid's in the Brentford team (7)
21 Interrupt the French with an exclamation (6)
22 Pain due to a double portion of porridge (6)
23 Is in repose, but you won't agree! (6)
25 Hospital traditionally for the hereditarily honoured? (5)
26 Garment from the glove stall (4)
28 Clandestine union? (3)

ACROSS
1 Reject (5)
6 Drops (5)
9 British city (7)
10 Tale (5)
11 Praises (5)
12 Stomach (5)
13 Commanded (7)
15 Agent (3)
17 Second-hand (4)
18 Failure (6)
19 Stringed instruments (5)
20 Scamp (6)
22 Hoofed mammal (4)
24 Previous day (3)
25 Scolds (7)
26 Navigation aid (5)
27 Naive (5)
28 Once more (5)
29 Blend (7)
30 Keepsake (5)
31 Carrying salvers (5)

DOWN
2 Provides (6)
3 Tallied (6)
4 Layer (3)
5 Inquired (5)
6 Foolish actions (7)
7 Not at home (4)
8 Titled women (6)
12 Gemstone (5)
13 Improper (5)
14 Thick (5)
15 Metal fastener (5)
16 Fruit (5)
18 Postpone (5)
19 Terse (7)
21 Opposed (6)
22 Peril (6)
23 Creepily (6)
25 Lures (5)
26 Half (4)
28 Craft (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12367

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, St-R-uck 7, Turns out 8, Embers 10, Ra-p-id 13, Sees (rev.) 14, Eve-n 15, Dell 16, Bob 17, Gain 19, Thin 21, Come AB-out 23, Tutu 24, Tuns 26, Sap 27, Shot 29, Sire 32, Seer 33, Hydra 34, Ceris-e 35, DI's-trait 36, States.
DOWN: 1, S-to-R-E 2, Tripe 3, Us-ed 4, Steel 5, Ribs 6, C-art-on 9, Melton 11, Ave 12, In-go-t 13, Senator 15, Die 16, Bit 18, Amuses 20, Hussy 21, C-up 22, But 23, T-ale-NT 25, Err 28, He-e-ds 30, Ideas 31, Earth 32, Silt 33, Hats.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Access 7, Abandons 8, Scares 10, Green 13, Wear 14, Sing 15, Hiss 16, Cob 17, Raid 19, Icon 21, Personnel 23, Rota 24, Wool 26, Bet 27, Brew 29, Loop 32, Slur 33, Sober 34, Trowel 35, Endorses 36, Stupor.
DOWN: 1, Hangs 2, Haven 3, Aden 4, Asses 5, Char 6, Step on 9, Casino 11, Rip 12, Egret 13, Widower 15, His 16, Col 18, Arable 20, Cello 21, Pot 22, Now 23, Regret 25, Foe 28, Ruler 30, Obese 31, Press 32, Swap 33, Show.

◆SU-DO-KU-6847◆

					2		7	
	8			7	5	9		6
		9				3		4
		4		9				5
5								8
8				6		2		
1		2				4		
9		6	3	2			8	
	5		6					

medium

8	5	4	1	3	7	9	2	6
6	7	2	4	9	8	3	1	5
1	3	9	6	5	2	4	7	8
2	8	5	7	4	3	6	9	1
3	9	1	5	2	6	7	8	4
7	4	6	9	8	1	5	3	2
9	6	7	2	1	5	8	4	3
5	1	8	3	7	4	2	6	9
4	2	3	8	6	9	1	5	7

SOLUTION TO 6846

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

A1	M3	N1	U1	T1	T1	N1	RACK 1
A1	D2	H4	M3	R1	A1	E1	1st Letter Triple — RACK 2
A1	O1	F4	R1	A1	T1	C3	Double Word Score — RACK 3
D2	N1	C3	R1	A1	I1	G2	Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 85-95
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3	E1	L1	O1	V4	E1	D2	RACK 1 = 89
R1	E1	L1	I1	G2	H4	T1	RACK 2 = 83
M3	A1	S1	H4	E1	R1	S1	RACK 3 = 86
S1	A1	N1	D2	E1	R1	S1	RACK 4 = 74

PAR SCORE 215-225 — JUDD'S TOTAL 332

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RULME

SUAEP

SLEMYL

NRUHBC

B Side
WILCO
This neighborhood loves their music.
We picked the perfect spot to open a record store.
8/26
THE NEW SHOP THRIVED THANKS TO ALL THE CUSTOMERS THAT LIVED ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ○○○○ - ○○○○ "
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLIMB WHARF STANZA TROPHY
Answer: To plan the new home's plumbing system, they created a — FLOW CHART

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

HITORI-3301

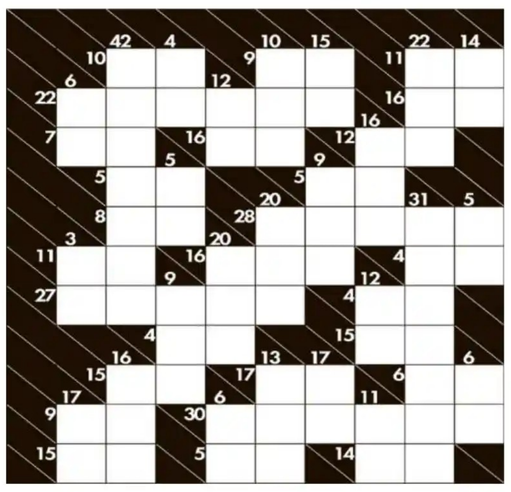
7	4	6	3	7	4	5	4
5	3	2	4	1	6	4	4
5	2	4	5	3	8	6	3
4	8	3	7	6	5	5	1
1	4	8	4	4	8	3	5
4	4	4	8	5	3	5	7
6	5	4	1	4	2	7	4
3	5	5	2	7	4	4	6

SOLUTION TO 3300

■	6	2	■	8	■	3	4
1	■	4	7	2	8	■	5
8	3	7	■	1	6	4	2
3	■	8	1	5	■	7	■
7	1	■	3	4	2	6	8
2	■	1	4	■	3	5	■
6	4	■	5	7	■	2	1
■	7	5	8	■	4	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3301



SOLUTION TO 3300

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3847

■	5					1		■
	■						■	
		2		6		8		
7			■	2	■			
6				■	9		1	
		4	1		7		8	2
	7	5				■		
4	■	8			5		■	
■		9					7	■

SOLUTION TO 3846

4	9	3	8	2	5	1	7	6
2	7	6	1	4	9	8	5	3
5	8	1	6	7	3	9	4	2
8	3	9	5	6	1	7	2	4
7	2	5	9	8	4	6	3	1
6	1	4	7	3	2	5	9	8
1	5	2	4	9	6	3	8	7
9	4	8	3	1	7	2	6	5
3	6	7	2	5	8	4	1	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Maha approves anti-conversion Bill; to be tabled in Assembly

MUMBAI, DHNS: Maharashtra will soon have an anti-conversion law, along the lines of states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

The proposed law states that anyone found converting the religion of a person through force, fraud, or inducement could face arrest and legal action.

The draft Bill was approved at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday evening presided over by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, amid the ongoing Budget session. The Bill may be introduced in the legislature during the ongoing session.

State Ports and Fisheries Minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane said the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, was "very stringent".

According to him, several Hindutva organisations had demanded a law against anti-conversion and 'love jihad'. "We are sure the GR will be issued very soon... As a Hindutva activist, I am very happy about it," he said.

He added that the Bill's finer details would be shared soon.

With Rs 6,769 cr, BJP dominates party incomes in 2024-25

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The ruling BJP reported an income of Rs 6,769.14 crore in 2024-25, accounting for 85.03% of the cumulative income of six national parties, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Of this, the BJP spent Rs 3,774.58 crore, or 55.76% of its income. The main Opposition party, Congress, earned Rs 918.28 crore but spent Rs 1,111.94 crore, exceeding its income by 21.09%.

Compared to 2023-24, the BJP's income rose by 55.95% (Rs 2,428.67 crore), while the Congress saw a decline of 25.05% (Rs 306.83 crore).

The six national parties, BJP, Congress, BSP, CPI(M), AAP and NPP, together had an income of Rs 7,960.09 crore. Of this, the Congress share was only 11.53% compared to the BJP's whopping 85.03%.

In its submission, the CPM said it had an income of Rs 172.60 crore, while its expenditure during the fiscal was Rs 173.86 crore, which is Rs 1.26 crore more than its income. The BSP reported an income of Rs 58.58 crore and an expenditure of Rs 106.30 crore.

CPM expels ex-MLA who raised serious allegations

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: In more trouble for the CPM in poll-bound Kerala, former MLA and prominent leader of Palakkad district P K Sasi was expelled from the party on Thursday, soon after he attended a meeting of rebel members of the party and raised serious allegations against its district secretary.

Sasi alleged that CPM district secretary E N Suresh Babu had a very bad track record, and many in the CPM had entered the illicit liquor business by misusing their influence in the party. He also alleged that CPM's local leaders were chosen during liquor parties.

The CPM announced his expulsion within hours. Meanwhile, Babu challenged Sasi to prove the allegations against him. He also said that Sasi's illegal activities and amassment of illegal wealth would be exposed soon.

Sasi, a former MLA from Shornur in Palakkad, faced suspension from the party in 2018 following sexual-harassment allegations by a woman member. Subsequently, he was denied a ticket in the 2021 elections and removed from all elected party posts.

Nearly half of migratory species in decline, 24% facing extinction: Study

Habitat loss, overexploitation and fragmentation cited as greatest threats

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of migratory species facing threats has risen in just two years, with an interim report showing that 49% of species protected under a global treaty are experiencing population declines—up from 44% in 2024. And 24% of these species are facing extinction.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) released the interim State of World Migratory Species report as an update to its first edition, launched during the CMS Conference of Parties (COP) in February 2024.

Migratory species are recognised as bioindicators and sentinels that provide early warnings about the changes in their habitats. The United Nations formed the CMS convention in 1979 as an environmental treaty and global platform to conserve them.

WARNING SIGNS

- **49%** of migratory species under CMS show population declines
- **592 species** now on IUCN Red List, compared to 520 in 2024
- **26 species** moved to more threatened categories
- Declines noted in **shorebirds, raptors, freshwater fish, sharks**
- From **bustards to dolphins,** India highlights conservation efforts

In 2024, as many as 520 migratory species (44% of species in the CMS list) showed a trend of decreasing population. They were listed in the threatened list ('Red List') of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In 2025, the IUCN updated its Red List. The reassessment now puts the number of CMS-listed species at 592, or 49% of the CMS list.

The update also showed an increase in the number of globally threatened species in the CMS list at 284 (24%), an increase from 22% two years ago.

As many as 26 species have moved to a more threatened category on the IUCN Red List compared to the list published in 2024. Some of these changes may be due to improved information rather than sudden population declines. The updated data also shifted seven CMS-listed species to an improved conservation status. Even so, the net increase in threatened species is a matter of concern.

The assessment pointed to recent scientific papers and reports on decreasing population trends for migratory shorebirds, raptors in the African-Eurasian flyway, freshwater fish, and sharks and rays. Over the last two years, the overall proportion of CMS-listed species with a rising or stable population has dropped from 520 species (43%) to 459 (38%), largely driven by the drop in the population of 67 birds.

On the positive side, progress has been made in identifying sites and broader areas that include important habitats for CMS-listed species. As a result, 16,589 key biodiversity areas have been recognised globally, with another 9,372 identified.

The report also highlights progress since COP14 in efforts to synthesise spatial information on migratory routes, pathways and connections.

CMS Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel noted that overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation are the greatest threats to migratory species worldwide.

India has said it has taken several measures to improve the status of several CMS species. "Several new conservation projects have been initiated for CMS species, including the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican, Asian Gyps Vulture, as well as Marine turtles, Gangetic and Irrawaddy dolphins, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Whale Shark and Dugong," it submitted.

Nitish's RS path to aid BJP's Bihar plan

But it raises questions about OBC support & JD(U)'s survival

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Nitish Kumar will perhaps go down in history as the first regional satrap to willingly relinquish the chief ministership for a seat in the Rajya Sabha. That too, to fulfil his long-cherished dream of being a member of all chambers of the legislature — the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Delhi, as well as the Assembly and Legislative Council in Patna.

Whatever the reason behind Nitish's decision to abdicate his throne, it helps the BJP realise its long-elusive Pataliputra plan — installing its own chief minister in Bihar, the only Hindi-heartland state where the party had so far failed to do so and was compelled to play second fiddle to the JD(U).

With the Opposition quick to accuse the Modi-Shah duo of usurping power through the backdoor, the dramatic developments in Bihar are bound to raise eyebrows. It remains unexplained why Nitish — who, with 40-odd MPs, had once dumped the BJP to form a government with the RJD — meekly accepted the shift to New Delhi even as the JD(U) doubled its strength in the Assembly since 2025.

When most parties were wary of tying up with the "communal" and predominantly "upper caste-Bania" dominated the BJP in the 1990s, it was Nitish who first broke the barriers to ally with the saffron party.

Political legitimacy

If Nitish gave respectability to the BJP and helped it shed its "political untouchability" by aligning with it, the socialist mascot is now conferring legitimacy on the party in Bihar.

The bigger question, however, is whether the BJP can capitalise on this in the future. Nitish, who recently turned 75, has so far acted as the crucial link in its success in Bihar.

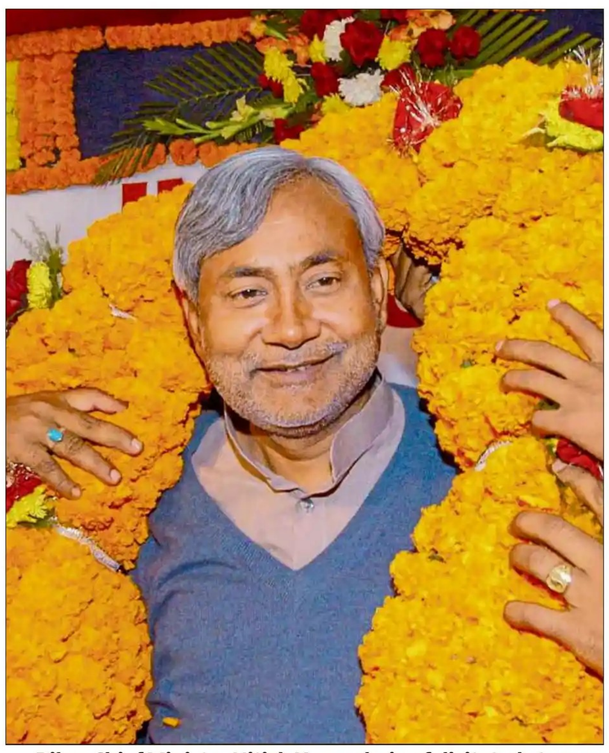
Since the mid-1990s, Nitish has compensated for the BJP's "upper caste" image with his hold over the non-Yadav backward class voters.

The 2020 Assembly elections saw the BJP increasing its footprint over the JD(U), but an electorally diminished Nitish could not be sidestepped. While the BJP flew some test balloons initially in 2025, it returned to endorse an ailing Nitish, who once again managed to rally the backward classes towards the NDA.

The biggest question staring at the BJP is whether it will be able to attract the backward classes in Nitish's absence.

The party will further have to counter the perception that upper-caste leaders within the JD(U) engineered Nitish's latest political manoeuvre. JD(U) National Working President Sanjay Jha and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh — both from upper-caste backgrounds — are accused of being BJP's men inside the JD(U).

For the JD(U), it will be an existential question, as it will now have to depend on the BJP, which holds the reins.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar being felicitated at an event, in Patna, in this January 2, 2006, file image. PTI

Betrayal of people's mandate: Opposition

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition parties on Thursday called Nitish Kumar's decision to relinquish Bihar Chief Minister's chair for a seat in Rajya Sabha as a "huge betrayal" of the 2025 mandate and a "leadership coup and regime change orchestrated by G2" while JD(U)'s lone Jharkhand MLA appeared to oppose his party chief's move calling it a "planned design" to sideline him.

Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav said in Patna that it was "betrayal" of the mandate while Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said what his party has been saying during the Bihar election campaign has now come to pass.

"We have been saying from the very beginning that the BJP will not let Nitish Kumar remain the Chief Minister after the elections. This is exactly what has happened. This development is against the mandate of the people and amounts to a betrayal of it," Tejashwi said in Patna.

Accusing the BJP of "hijacking" Nitish, he added, "BJP is against OBCs and Dalits. They never want a leader from these communities to occupy the top post. They want a CM who will function like a rubber stamp for the top BJP leadership. I had said they made Nitish Kumar mount the horse like a groom, but are getting someone else to take the wedding vows."

Ramesh said in apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, "a leadership coup and regime change orchestrated by G2 has taken place. It is, in many ways, a huge betrayal of the mandate of the people."

Jharkhand's lone JD(U) MLA Saryu Roy claimed that Nitish going to Rajya Sabha was a "planned design" to sideline him. "Nitish Kumar, who has been the chief minister since 2005, has done a lot of work for the state and brought good governance. The manner in which a person like him was sidelined from the CM's post for the Rajya Sabha, it appears that he is being sent to a shelter," he said

"From the activities that have been going on between Delhi and Patna over the last two days, it seems that this was done according to a planned design. If he had been sent to the Rajya Sabha in a respectable manner, no one would have objected. Being a friend of Kumar, I am not able to digest this decision," he said.

Congress picks Revanth's 'Man Friday'

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The AICC's selection of Vem Narender Reddy for a Rajya Sabha seat from Telangana signalled Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's strong influence over the Congress high command, despite fierce competition from party veterans.

Narender Reddy

A confidant of Revanth Reddy since their TDP days, Narender Reddy acts as his eyes and ears. He is often compared to K V P Ramachandra Rao, the trusted aide of former Congress strongman and ex-CM Y S Rajasekhara Reddy in united Andhra Pradesh.

One of the two vacant seats from Telangana was earmarked for senior Supreme Court advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, leaving at least 16 Congress leaders — including several Backward Class (BC) figures — to vie for the other.

However, Revanth Reddy appeared to put a firm end to that race by accompanying Narender Reddy when the latter filed his nomination papers.

Narender Reddy's nomination also brought back into focus the infamous 2015 cash-for-votes scandal.

Gaurav vs Himanta fight looms in Assam polls

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Gaurav Gogoi

With Gaurav Gogoi named as a candidate for Assembly elections, the poll battle in Assam for the first time is poised to be between him and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, once his father Tarun Gogoi's bete noire.

Congress on Tuesday named Gaurav in the Jorhat Assembly seat for his maiden Assembly polls. Although Sarma is likely to contest from his Guwahati 's Jalukbari—not against Gogoi in Jorhat—all eyes will be on how Gaurav leads the party against Sarma and his team in the Assembly poll battle.

"Our fight will be against Himanta Biswa Sarma, the graft of the BJP...We will remove the divisive BJP and Sarma and establish a new Bor Axom (greater Assam)," Gaurav told reporters, hours after the AICC named him as a candidate.

In fact, Gaurav's "sudden entry" into politics in 2013-14 led Sarma, then a senior minister in the Tarun Gogoi Cabinet, to quit Congress and join the BJP in 2015. Gaurav's entry into Congress upset Sarma's dream of becoming the successor of his mentor, Tarun, as the CM.

Sarma led the BJP's campaign in the 2016 Assembly polls, in which the Gogoi government was unseated and the saffron party formed its first government in Assam with Sarbananda Sonowal as the CM. Several Congress MLAs, who supported Sarma against Tarun, also switched to BJP.

Gaurav, who was called "a novice and a dynast" by Sarma, was elected to Lok Sabha in 2014 and 2019 from Kaliabor, a citadel for the Gogoi family.

THE SHOWDOWN

- Sarma likely to contest from Jalukbari, not against Gogoi in Jorhat
- Gaurav says the fight is against Sarma, BJP's corruption
- Gaurav's sudden entry into politics in 2013-14 led Sarma to quit Cong
- For Gaurav, the elections are an opportunity to avenge his father's defeat in 2016

BJP and its allies won the elections for the second straight term in 2021, when Sarma replaced Sonowal and became the CM. Months before Sarma became the CM, Tarun Gogoi died in November 2020 due to Covid-related complications.

The 2024 LS polls were an acid test for Gaurav, as it was his first electoral battle in the absence of his father, and the delimitation exercise forced him to shift to the Jorhat LS constituency. What came as a surprise for Sarma and his team, Gaurav won. His stature in the Congress also grew, and he was made the deputy leader of the party in the LS for the second time in 2024.

In May last year, Congress appointed Gaurav as the state part chief, replacing Bhupen Kumar Borah. Borah, who was also a trusted aide of Tarun, quit and joined BJP last month.

BJP excludes ally UPPL from seat-sharing agreement

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The ruling BJP will not share seats with the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) — its Bodoland-region ally since 2021— for next month's Assam Assembly polls.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday that seat-sharing talks with three other allies — the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Bodoland People's Front (BPF), and the Rabha Hasong Joutha Sangram Samiti — had concluded on Wednesday night.

"The understanding reached among the allies will now require the Central Parliamentary Board's approval. The names will be made public once the process is completed. But that will take a couple of days," Sarma told reporters.

He added, "In Bodoland, we have finished seat-sharing talks with only the BPF. Now, it is up to the BPF to reach an understanding with the UPPL."

The BJP, however, sprang a surprise by naming UPPL chief Pramod Boro as the NDA candidate for the Rajya Sabha election from Assam.

Boro on Thursday filed his nomination papers in the presence of BJP leaders, including Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Sarma named Boro the NDA candidate on Wednesday for the third Rajya Sabha seat up for grabs from Assam. Minister Jogen Mohan and MLA Terash Gowala (both BJP) were named for the other two.

Observers believe that the BJP kept the doors open for the UPPL's support after the Assembly polls by supporting Boro for the Rajya Sabha.

Equations play out in Haryana, Odisha, Bihar for RS polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Haryana, Odisha, and Bihar will witness elections to the Rajya Sabha on March 16: Independents and an RLM candidate backed by the BJP have entered the fray despite the saffron party not having the numbers to get them through.

The interesting fight will be in Haryana, where BJP state vice-president Satish Nandal has filed nomination papers as an independent candidate, the third in the fray for two seats.

As per the Assembly strength, the BJP and the Congress can win one seat each with the 31 first-preference votes needed for victory. The BJP, with 48 MLAs, has the support of three independents and also expects two INLD lawmakers to vote for it. However, Nandal would be short of nine votes even if the BJP transferred its surplus votes.

BJD chief Naveen Patnaik while filing of the nomination of the party candidates for the RS polls on Thursday. PTI

With Haryana witnessing cross-voting, Congress managers have their fingers crossed, as its central leadership chose little-known Karamvir Singh Boudh as its candidate, sidelining seniors like Uday Bhan and Ashok Tanwar. The BJP has fielded former Lok Sabha member Sanjay Bhatia.

In Bihar, the NDA has fielded candidates for all five seats, though it can ensure the victory of only four. With the RJD-led Opposition alliance short of six votes to get its candidate in, the NDA has fielded RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha, expecting cross-voting. It needs just three more votes from the Opposition to get him through.

The entry of businessman-politician Dilip Ray as an independent candidate with the BJP's support has queered the pitch in Odisha, where four seats are up for grabs.

Given the numbers in the Assembly, the BJP can win two seats, and has announced the candidature of its Odisha unit chief Manmohan Samal and sitting MP Sujeet Kumar. The BJD could bag one seat, and has fielded Dr Santrupt Misra, a close aide of party chief Naveen Patnaik.

Looking to keep the BJP from snatching the fourth seat, the BJD, the Congress, and the CPM have joined hands and decided to support a common candidate, Dr Datteswar Hota.

While BJD does not have the numbers on its own to get the fourth seat, the Congress and the CPM entry have assured that the numbers are on its side, at least on paper.

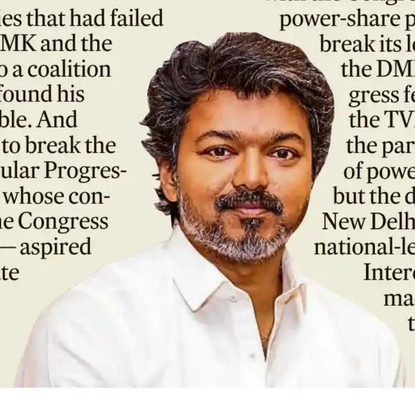
ELECTORAL BATTLE

Why did Vijay's power-share bomb fizzle?

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

At the formal launch of his party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), in October 2024, actor-politician Vijay declared that he was "open to sharing power" with political parties that accepted his leadership.

Many parties that had failed to push the DMK and the AIADMK into a coalition government found his offer irresistible. And Vijay wanted to break the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, whose constituents — the Congress and the VCK — aspired to join the state government.



About 16 months later, in February this year, Vijay called the announcement a "political bomb" that had been creating ripples across alliances in Tamil Nadu, as the Congress and the BJP began seeking a share in power with their senior partners in the state, the DMK and the AIADMK, respectively.

Vijay genuinely wanted to tie up with the Congress. He believed the power-share promise would make it break its longstanding ties with the DMK. Many in the Congress felt that allying with the TVK would rejuvenate the party, which has been out of power in TN since 1967, but the decision-makers in New Delhi did not want to upset national-level ties.

Interestingly, the AIADMK made multiple efforts to ally with the TVK, which Vijay is believed to have rejected since he would not be the chief-ministerial face.

The lack of his constant public appearances, an electorally untested support base, the absence of a vibrant second-rung leadership, and the gaps in its ground infrastructure appear to be some of the reasons political parties didn't rally behind Vijay.

His hibernation after the Karur tragedy, when 41 people died in a stampede at his rally; when his cinematic swansong "Jana Nayagan" became stuck in legal hurdles; and when the CBI summoned him to Delhi in the stampede case further alienated him from political parties.

Vijay being largely inaccessible, even for his own team, besides his failure to discipline cadres who dangerously — at times fatally — trailed him on two-wheelers, and his party distancing itself from fans' actions may have acted to its detriment.

US, allies look to Ukraine as Iranian Shahed drones wreak havoc

Zelenskyy says Kyiv will assist only if it does not weaken Ukraine's defences

KYIV, AP/PTI

The United States and its allies in West Asia are seeking Ukraine's expertise in countering Iran's Shahed drones, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Various countries, including the US, have approached Ukraine for help in defending against the Iranian drones, Zelenskyy said. He said he has spoken in recent days with the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait about possible cooperation.

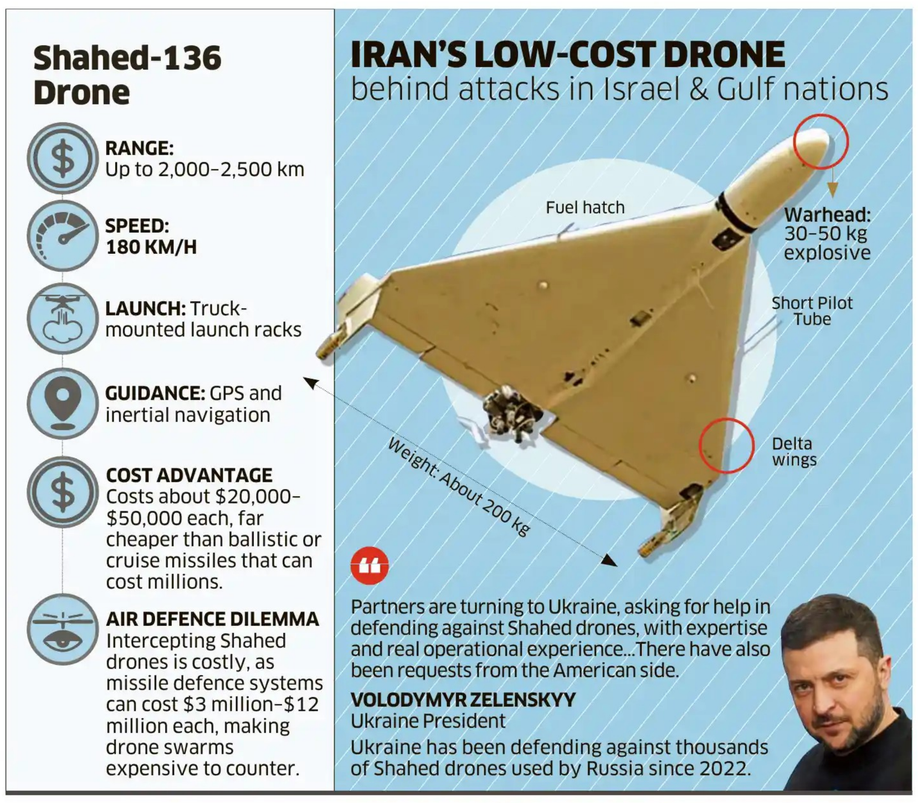
Russia has fired tens of thousands of Shahed drones at Ukraine since it invaded its neighbour just over four years ago. Iran has responded with the same type of drones to joint US-Israeli strikes on Iranian targets.

Ukrainian assistance in countering Iranian drones will be provided only if it does not weaken Ukraine's own defences, and if it adds leverage to Kyiv's diplomatic efforts to stop the Russian invasion, according to the Ukrainian leader. "We help to defend from war those who help us, Ukraine, bring a just end to the war" with Russia, Zelenskyy said.

The Iran war, now in its sixth day, has drawn international attention away from Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and forced the postponement of a new round of US-brokered talks between Russia and Ukraine planned for this week, Zelenskyy said.

Western governments and analysts say the Russia-Ukraine war has killed hundreds of thousands of people, while there is no sign that the year-long US-led peace efforts will stop the fighting any time soon.

"Right now, because of the situation around Iran, there are not yet the necessary signals for a trilateral meeting," Zelenskyy said. "But as soon as the security situation and the overall political context allow us to resume that trilateral diplomatic work, it will be done."


Shahed-136 Drone
RANGE: Up to 2,000–2,500 km
SPEED: 180 KM/H
LAUNCH: Truck-mounted launch racks
GUIDANCE: GPS and inertial navigation
COST ADVANTAGE Costs about $20,000–$50,000 each, far cheaper than ballistic or cruise missiles that can cost millions.
AIR DEFENCE DILEMMA Intercepting Shahed drones is costly, as missile defence systems can cost $3 million–$12 million each, making drone swarms expensive to counter.
IRAN'S LOW-COST DRONE
behind attacks in Israel & Gulf nations
Fuel hatch
Warhead: 30–50 kg explosive
Short Pilot Tube
Delta wings
Weight: About 200 kg
Partners are turning to Ukraine, asking for help in defending against Shahed drones, with expertise and real operational experience...There have also been requests from the American side.
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY
Ukraine President
Ukraine has been defending against thousands of Shahed drones used by Russia since 2022.

UK sends more fighter jets to Gulf: PM

LONDON, AFP: Britain is sending additional fighter jets to Qatar amid the widening war in West Asia, PM Keir Starmer said on Thursday as his defence minister visited Cyprus.

The four Typhoon planes will join UK squadron in the Gulf state "to strengthen our defensive operations in Qatar and across the region", he said.

Trump seeks say in picking Iran's leader

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump on Thursday insisted he should have a role in picking Iran's next supreme leader after the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose son he said he found unacceptable.

"Khamenei's son is a lightweight. I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delcy," Trump told Axios in an interview, drawing a comparison to Venezuela, where interim president Delcy Rodriguez has cooperated with him under threat of violence after the US ousted her boss, Nicolas Maduro. Trump told the news outlet that the US would likely return to war within five years without a favourable leader in Iran.

"Khamenei's son is unacceptable to me. We want someone that will bring harmony and peace to Iran," Trump was quoted as saying by the news outlet. It was unclear in what way Trump would be able to take a role in the Islamic republic's selection of a new supreme leader.

US Prez says he backs a Kurdish offensive inside Iran

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he would approve of an offensive by Iranian Kurdish fighters into Iran in support of the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic.

"I think it's wonderful that they want to do that, I'd be all for it," Trump said in an interview with news agency Reuters. Trump declined to say if the US would provide air cover to Kurdish forces. Since the US and Israel launched the war on Saturday, Iran has been striking Iranian Kurdish groups in Iraqi Kurdistan whom Tehran accuses of serving Western and Israeli interests.

Several Iranian Kurdish groups back fighting for greater autonomy within Iran, angering the Islamic republic but also many opponents, including monarchists who insist on territorial integrity. While Kurds have historically had less friction with the Iranian state than their brethren in Iraq, Turkey and Syria, Iranian Kurds form some of Iran's rare armed and organised opposition groups.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Venezuela's interim president Delcy Rodriguez with US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas on Wednesday. AFP

US in talks with Venezuela for critical minerals agreement

▶ US Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum on Wednesday met in Venezuela with acting President Delcy Rodríguez in the latest sign of the Trump administration's intent to exercise control over the South American country's natural resources, AP/PTI reports from Caracas.

Burgum, who leads US President Donald Trump's National Energy Dominance Council, and Rodríguez met with representatives of more than two dozen US mining and minerals companies, many of which had previously operated in Venezuela. The two-day visit comes as the administration seeks to defend against China's hold on critical minerals - some of which are abundant in Venezuela - and advances its phased plan to turn around the long-troubled country. "When we are working together in can only mean two things, which is prosperity for the people of Venezuela and for the citizens of the United States, and it also brings peace and stability for the world," Burgum told reporters standing next to Rodríguez, whom he praised for her efforts "to cut the red tape and allow capital investment to flow."

Mass blackout hits western Cuba

▶ A blackout left millions of people without power in Havana and the rest of western Cuba on Wednesday in the latest outage on an island struggling with dwindling oil reserves and a crumbling electric grid, AP/PTI reports from Havana.

Government radio station Radio Rebelde quoted an energy official as saying that it could take at least 72 hours to restore operations at one of Cuba's largest thermoelectric power plants, where a shutdown sparked the outage. The government said the outage affected people from Pinar del Río to Camagüey. Energy and Mines Minister Vicente de la O Levy wrote on X late Wednesday that the government was powering critical infrastructure in the affected region as two power plants came online.

North Korea tests a sea-to-surface strategic cruise missile from destroyer Choe Hyon on Wednesday, as Pyongyang steps up weapons tests amid rising tensions with South Korea. AFP

Indian-origin woman stabbed

▶ A 45-year-old Indian-origin woman was stabbed to death by unidentified persons in Canada's Ontario province, PTI reports from Ottawa.

The incident took place "just before 9:30 pm on March 3" at LaSalle town in Essex County, the LaSalle Police Service said in a statement on Wednesday. The victim has been identified as Nancy Grewal of Windsor, it said, adding that "investigators are viewing this as an isolated incident". Police said they are continuing to investigate the "homicide" that occurred on Todd Lane. Anyone with information has been asked to contact Detective Sergeant Jamie Nestor. Police are also seeking video surveillance from anyone that lives nearby.

Japan's Kairos rocket fails again

▶ Japan's Space One said its Kairos small rocket self-destructed 69 seconds after lift-off on Thursday, marking the third failed attempt to achieve the country's first fully commercial satellite launch, Reuters reports from Tokyo.

Three months after another state-run rocket launch failure, the unsuccessful flight dealt a fresh blow to Japan's efforts to establish domestic launch options and reduce its reliance on US rockets amid rising space security needs to counter China. Kairos, the 18-metre solid-propellant rocket, carried five experimental satellites. It automatically ended the flight at an altitude of 29 km above the Pacific. "No significant abnormalities were found in the flight or onboard equipment" before the self-destruction, Space One Vice President Nobuhiro Sekino told a press conference.

China raises defence budget 7% to $277 billion

Beijing sets lowest growth target since 1991 amid rivalry with US

BEIJING, PTI

China on Thursday hiked its defence budget to about 1.91 trillion yuan ($277 billion), an increase of seven per cent from last year in yuan terms, as part of efforts to speed up the rapid modernisation of its armed forces to catch up with the US military.

Flanked by Chinese President Xi Jinping and other top leaders at the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC), Premier Li Qiang presented his annual work report in which he proposed increasing defence spending to roughly 1.91 trillion yuan ($276.9 billion) for the 2026 fiscal year, a seven per cent year-on-year rise, state-run China Daily reported.

Another highlight of his proposal was lowering the GDP growth target for the Chinese economy to 4.5 to 5 per cent amid Trump's tariff war, the worsening global crisis following the US-Iran war and headwinds in the domestic economy due to a property market slump and rising unemployment.

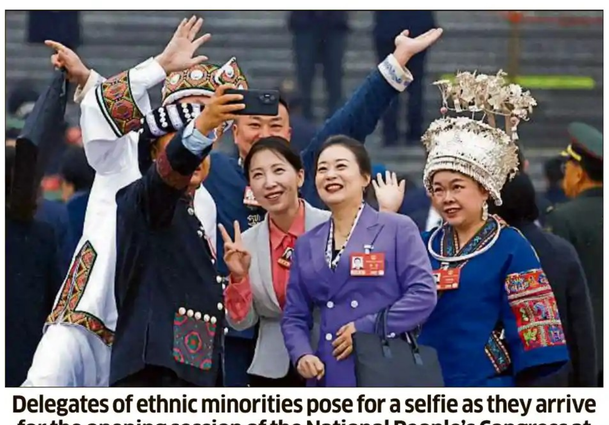
China, which in the past recorded double-digit growth, has set a target of about five per cent GDP growth in the past three years amid mounting domestic and external economic challenges.

This year, the target was lowered to 4.5 to 5 per cent for the first time, which was seen as an acknowledgement that the world's second-largest economy faces headwinds while relying more on external trade due to stagnating domestic consumption.

On the rise in defence spending, Chinese official media sought to defend the increase, saying military expenditure would maintain single-digit growth for the 11th consecutive year since 2016 and would represent the lowest percentage increase since the 2021 fiscal year.

Chinese defence experts also pointed to the US — the world's largest military spender — which has increased its defence budget to one trillion US dollars for 2026.

A large proportion of that spending would be used against China, state-run China Daily said, quoting the US National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026.



Delegates of ethnic minorities pose for a selfie as they arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. REUTERS

China to build 'birth-friendly society', refine social security

China said on Thursday that it would build a "child-birth-friendly society" in the next five years as it pledged to address concerns over employment, education, medical care, health and income, Reuters reports from Beijing.

Authorities will improve population services and respond proactively to population ageing, including "promoting high-quality, full employment, improving the income distribution system, and refining the social security system." The announcement comes after China's population fell for a fourth consecutive year in 2025, as the birth rate plunged to a record low.

60% turnout in Nepal's first election since Gen Z protests

KATHMANDU, PTI

Tens of thousands of people voted on Thursday in Nepal's first general election since violent Gen Z protests toppled the KP Sharma Oli-led coalition government, with corruption and generational change in leadership emerging as the main issues in the politically fragile country.

The election is being closely watched by India, which hopes for a stable government in the Himalayan nation to take forward the developmental partnership between the two sides. "The election to the House of Representatives has been conducted peacefully and enthusiastically," said acting Chief Election Commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari.

According to preliminary estimates, around 60% turnout was registered during the voting, he said.

The newly formed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by former rapper Balendra Shah, who was also the mayor of Kathmandu, is posing a tough challenge to the two largest political parties — the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).

Nepali Congress president Gagan Thapa is the prime ministerial candidate of his party, whereas the CPN-UML has projected Oli as its PM face. Except for a few sporadic minor incidents, the election was largely peaceful, Bhandari said.

Ballot boxes are now being collected, and counting will begin as soon as the ballot papers are gathered, he added. Results are expected within 24 hours after the election.

Nepal's 18.9 million voters were eligible to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives. Of these, 165 members will be elected through the first-past-the-post or direct voting system, while 110 members will be elected through proportional voting.

Security personnel escort as electoral officials carry ballot boxes at a polling station in Kathmandu on Thursday. AFP

Finland to lift full ban on hosting nuclear arms

HELSINKI, REUTERS: Finland plans to lift a long-standing ban on hosting nuclear arms on its territory, the government said on Thursday, aligning with Nordic neighbours in a move that could open the door to deploying atomic bombs on Finnish soil during wartime.

Finland's Nuclear Energy Act, passed in 1987, prohibits the import, manufacture, possession and detonation of nuclear explosives on its soil, a clause seen by some Finns as benefiting only Russia if there were ever a war.

While Finland maintained neutrality during the Cold War era, the country in 2023 joined the NATO military alliance in response to nuclear-armed Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine the preceding year.

"The amendment is necessary to enable Finland's military defence as part of the alliance and to take full advantage of NATO's deterrence and collective defence," Finnish Defence Minister Antti Hakkanen told a press conference.

The proposed change will next go to parliament, where the right-wing coalition government holds a majority. Neighbours Sweden, Denmark and Norway have long-standing policies against nuclear weapons on their territories in peacetime but do not have legislative bans during war.

Canadian PM heaps praise on Modi for welfare delivery

SYDNEY, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "very focused" on delivering welfare programmes to ordinary people and has succeeded in bringing "hundreds of millions" into the formal economy through financial reforms in India, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said.

Carney was speaking on Wednesday during an interaction at the Lowy Institute, Australia's leading think tank, where he was asked to share his assessment of Modi, days after the two leaders met in New Delhi.

The Canadian prime minister was in India from February 27 to March 2, during which India and Canada sealed key pacts on supplies of uranium and critical minerals and agreed to conclude a comprehensive economic partnership agreement soon.

"Just on a personal level, the impression is that he is a person who is very focused on delivery to, I would say, the rural household," Carney said, invoking a French phrase to refer to "the person on the street."

"A huge motivation for the financial reform transformations, the payment system transformation, the UPI and other measures was to get money directly to individuals without leakage in the system, in real time, and to bring hundreds of millions of people into the formal economy," he said.

Carney said Modi has been successful in delivering welfare programmes to ordinary people despite challenges.

"He is very focused on that aspect of delivery. Here he is operating at a global level with India rising, despite challenges, but a leader who keeps bringing it back down to that level," he said.

Carney also said Modi has not taken a day off in the last 25 years, since he first became chief minister of Gujarat in 2001 and later prime minister in 2014. "I mean, the guy is unique. For 25 years, he has not taken a day off," he said.

Targets largely achieved in operation against Afghanistan: Pakistan

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan has largely achieved the targets set for it in the recent military operation against Afghanistan, a close aide to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif claimed on Thursday.

Pakistan launched 'Operation Ghazab lil-Haq' last week after Afghan Taliban forces attacked 53 locations along the more than 2,600 km-long border between the two countries.

"Pakistan's targets in Operation Ghazab lil-Haq in Afghanistan have almost been achieved and are now being consolidated," the prime minister's political adviser Rana Sanaullah said.

He told a private news channel that Pakistan's "only demand from Afghanistan was that it should not allow its soil to be used for terrorism against us".

The adviser said Pakistan wants Afghanistan to immediately renounce support for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "If the Taliban government does so, we have no fight with it," Sanaullah said.

Ellison vows CNN editorial independence

NEW YORK, AFP: Paramount Skydance chief David Ellison sought to calm fears over the future of CNN, pledging to protect the news network's editorial independence as his company closes in on a landmark takeover of Warner Bros Discovery.

"We absolutely believe in the independence that needs to be maintained, obviously for those incredible journalists, and we want to support that going forward," Ellison told CNBC.

Singer Britney Spears was arrested on Wednesday night in Southern California, though the charge was not immediately clear. Spears was taken into custody around 9:30 pm and released on Thursday. REUTERS FILE

Oil rises on supply concerns as Iran conflict widens

Traffic through Strait of Hormuz remains halted, production cuts broaden

LONDON, REUTERS

Oil prices rose on Thursday, extending a rally as the escalating US-Israeli war with Iran disrupted supplies and shipping, prompting some major producers to cut output and others to take measures to ensure supply security.

Brent crude was up $1.72, or 2.1%, at $83.12 per barrel by 1106 GMT (4.36 pm IST), a fifth session of gains. US West Texas Intermediate crude rose $1.95, or 2.6%, to $76.61.

Oil markets are tightening, with the Chinese government telling the largest oil refiners to suspend exports of diesel and gasoline, said PVM analyst John Evans.

Two oil refineries in China and India shut their crude units following the disruption to supplies, as both countries rely on West Asian crude imports.

As a result of a lower supply outlook in fuel markets, European diesel futures reached their highest level since October 2022 at $1,130.

Crude oil markets remained on edge as they face ongoing risks to supply following the attacks in West Asia, with concerns centred on trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz, ANZ analysts said in a note on Thursday.

Continued attacks on oil tankers

Attacks on oil tankers continued on Thursday, as the Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker Sonangol Namibe reported its hull was breached after a blast near Iraq's Khor al Zubair port.

Around 300 oil tankers remained inside the strait as vessel traffic in and out of the chokepoint nearly halted following the outbreak of war, according to ship tracking data from Vortexa and Kpler that excludes some of the smallest tankers.

Iran launched a wave of missiles at Israel early on Thursday, sending millions of residents into bomb shelters as the conflict entered its sixth day, and just hours after moves to halt the US attacks were blocked in Washington.

On Wednesday, a US submarine sank an Iranian warship off Sri Lanka, killing at least 80 people, and NATO air defences destroyed an Iranian ballistic missile fired towards Turkiye.

Crude oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait could start shutting in within days if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, potentially cutting 3.3 million barrels per day (bpd) by day eight of the conflict, J.P. Morgan analysts said in a note.

Iraq, the second-largest crude producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has cut output by nearly 1.5 million barrels a day for lack of storage and an export route, officials told Reuters.

Qatar, the biggest liquefied natural gas producer in the Gulf, declared force majeure on gas exports on Wednesday, with sources saying a return to normal production volumes may take at least a month.

HALT AT HORMUZ

- Crude oil markets on edge as they face ongoing risks to supply
- Around **300 oil tankers** remain inside the Strait of Hormuz
- Iraq cuts output by nearly **1.5 million barrels** a day
- Qatar declared force majeure on gas exports on Wednesday

Tankers seen off the coast of Fujairah, the UAE, as Iran vows to fire on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

GAIL warns of gas supply cuts as 30% of imports blocked

NEW DELHI, PTI: State-run GAIL (India) Ltd is planning to slash natural gas supplies to select customers after roughly 30% of India's imported liquified natural gas (LNG) shipments were blocked due to escalating military conflict in West Asia.

Following joint US and Israeli strikes on Iranian government, military and nuclear facilities, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps warned vessels against transiting the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow sea lane through which crude oil and natural gas from Gulf producers move to global markets — prompting major insurers to withdraw or sharply raise war-risk coverage and forcing several shipping lines to suspend tanker movements through the route.

For India, a bulk of its LNG supplies from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates flows through the Strait of Hormuz. In a stock exchange filing, GAIL said its LNG supplier has served a force majeure notice "due to constraints faced by certain LNG vessels arising from maritime navigation restrictions related to the Strait of Hormuz during transit between India and Qatar."

A top oil ministry official said as much as 60 million standard cubic meters per day of gas supplies has been halted due to the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.

MRPL shuts one of its three crude units amid shortage, say sources

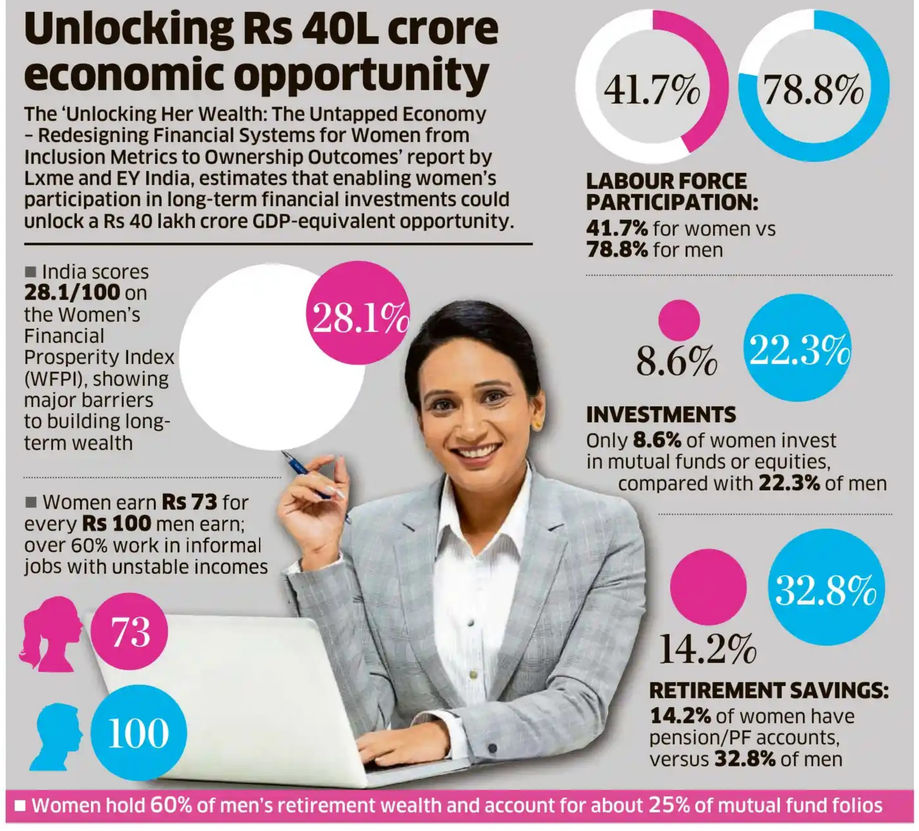
MANGALURU, DHNS: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) shut down one of its three crude distillation units due to crude oil shortage, sources confirmed on Thursday.

MRPL is largely operating on West Asian crude and the effective shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz following Iranian attacks had led to a decline in stockpiles, sources said. The strait is the main channel for the transport of nearly one-fifth of global energy cargo.

During a recent conference call on unaudited financial results for Q3FY2026, MRPL Dirctor (Finance) Devendra Kumar informed stakeholders that MRPL exports 40% of its products. On the same call, Devendra informed that MRPL had stopped buying crude oil from Russia, and is thus dependent on the purchase of oil from West Asia.

Unlocking Rs 40L crore economic opportunity

The 'Unlocking Her Wealth: The Untapped Economy – Redesigning Financial Systems for Women from Inclusion Metrics to Ownership Outcomes' report by Lxme and EY India, estimates that enabling women's participation in long-term financial investments could unlock a Rs 40 lakh crore GDP-equivalent opportunity.


41.7%
78.8%
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION:
41.7% for women vs 78.8% for men
India scores 28.1/100 on the Women's Financial Prosperity Index (WFPI), showing major barriers to building long-term wealth
28.1%
8.6%
22.3%
INVESTMENTS
Only 8.6% of women invest in mutual funds or equities, compared with 22.3% of men
Women earn Rs 73 for every Rs 100 men earn; over 60% work in informal jobs with unstable incomes
73
100
14.2%
32.8%
RETIREMENT SAVINGS:
14.2% of women have pension/PF accounts, versus 32.8% of men
Women hold 60% of men's retirement wealth and account for about 25% of mutual fund folios

Rupee settles 41 paise higher at 91.64 against dollar

Buying trend in domestic markets, suspected RBI move aid currency

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee rebounded from its lowest level and settled with a gain of 41 paise at 91.64 against the US dollar on Thursday on the back of a buying trend in domestic equity markets and suspected RBI intervention.

According to forex analysts, the RBI seems to have intervened to help the local currency from extreme volatility due to uncertainties on the ongoing war involving the US, Israel and Iran.

However, a firm dollar, rising crude oil prices and withdrawal of foreign funds kept the rupee under pressure, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 92.16 and touched an intraday high of 91.30 against the greenback. The currency ended the session at 91.64 against the dollar, registering a gain of 41 paise from the previous closing level.

The Indian currency slumped 56 paise to close at its all-time low of 92.05 against US dollar on Wednesday, after logging a steep loss of 41 paise on Monday.

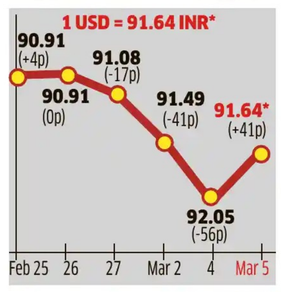
"Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have significantly impacted the Indian rupee. Concerns regarding crude supply and elevated oil prices have exerted depreciation pressure on the INR," according to Sameer Karyatt, Executive Director and Head of Trading at DBS Bank India.

Karyatt further noted that this pressure on the INR has been amplified by a shift towards safe-haven assets in the current uncertain environment, leading to an approximate 1.4% depreciation this week.

"We anticipate continued depreciation pressure on the INR, consistent with trends observed in other Asian currencies under these macroeconomic conditions. The RBI is expected to intervene to mitigate excessive volatility and sterilize these actions to maintain INR surplus liquidity within the system," Karyatt said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.31% higher at 99.07.

According to experts, India faces the risk of a sharp increase in its import bill with the rising crude prices in the international market, as the country's 85 per cent fuel requirement is met through imports.



India-US trade deal close to finish line, says Landau

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the US is close to the finish line, which would unlock huge economic potential for both countries, US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue 2026, Landau said the proposed deal would help expand trade flows and strengthen economic cooperation between the two democracies.

Landau's remarks came amid continued uncertainty over the India-US bilateral trade agreement. Last month, India and the US announced a framework for an interim trade agreement. However, the US Supreme Court's recent ruling that invalidated Trump's tariffs, has added to the uncertainty over the deal.

Meanwhile, in another setback to US President Donald Trump's administration, the US Supreme Court has ruled that the companies which paid the now-struck-down duties are entitled to refunds.

On the Trump administration's "America First" policy, Landau said "America First" does not mean 'America alone'. He claimed that cooperation of the US with other nations remains important, and national sovereignty remains the foundation of the international system.

Underlying the importance of reciprocity, he said the US would not make the same mistakes with India that it made with China two decades ago.

"India should understand that we will not make the same mistakes with India that we did with China 20 years ago. We are going to let you be able to develop all these markets and the next thing you know, you are beating us at many commercial things," he said.

Landau implied that China's economic growth in the past two decades was partly due to the previous US administrations. He emphasised that it would not be in the US' interest to compete with another economy in the future of a similar scale or size as China's.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau on the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Stock markets rebound tracking rally in global peers

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Thursday, closing higher by more than 1% in line with a rebound in global equities, after recent sharp losses due to the conflict in West Asia.

Snapping its four-day decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 899.71 points or 1.14% to settle at 80,015.90. During the day, it surged 1,187.64 points or 1.50% to 80,303.83.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 285.40 points or 1.17% to end at 24,765.90, ending its three-day falling streak. From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, L&T, NTPC, RIL, Bharat Electronics and InterGlobe Aviation were among the major gainers. Tech Mahindra, HCLTech, Hindustan Unilever and ICICI Bank were among laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi rebounded sharply by 9.63%. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher. Markets in Europe were quoting higher. The US market ended in positive territory on Wednesday.

FIIs offloaded equities worth Rs 8,752.65 crore on Wednesday, while DIIs bought stocks worth Rs 12,068.17 crore, according to exchange data.

Tech Mahindra, Microsoft partner to roll out AI platform

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tech Mahindra on Thursday announced a collaboration with Microsoft to launch an ontology-driven Agentic AI platform that accelerates telecom and enterprise data modernisation. Built on Microsoft Fabric and Azure AI Foundry, the solution enables explainable, auditable, and real-time AI-powered decision-making, while supporting secure, governed deployment of AI agents, the IT services firm said.

As telecom operators and enterprises expand through mergers and acquisitions and manage increasingly complex data ecosystems, the gap between enterprise metadata and actionable insight continues to grow. Together, Tech Mahindra and Microsoft will address this challenge by transforming enterprise metadata into structured, reusable data products that fasttrack data mesh adoption from strategy to execution.

West Asia crisis: Rice exporters seek relief measures

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With international freight having gone up by an estimated 15-20% and war-risk surcharges and insurance premiums for Gulf transits having risen steeply, Indian rice exporters on Thursday sought urgent relief measures from the government.

The Indian Rice Exporters Federation in its plea to the government asked for a waiver of port-related charges (storage/demurrage and other levies), where cargo is rolled due to vessel cancellations; and facilitation for cargo in transit to be returned, redirected or diverted, with Customs and RBI support for documentation and payment adjustments.

In addition, they urged the Centre to issue an official advisory, recognising the disruption as a force majeure-type event to prevent unfair contractual penalties; and temporary banking support through ad-hoc working capital limits and credit extensions, on lines similar to COVID-era relief.

Industry estimates suggest that around 4 lakh metric tonnes of basmati rice is currently stuck at ports or mid-transit.

IBM India Systems Development Lab VP Subhathra Srinivasaraghavan (left) and IBM India & South Asia MD Sandip Patel launch the company's new Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru on Thursday.

IBM launches Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: IBM on Thursday announced the launch of its first Infrastructure Innovation Centre, housed within its new India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus, in Bengaluru.

Known as the Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Centre, it will bring together IBM's systems architects and infrastructure specialists from ISDL to co-create AI solutions with clients, Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), Global System Integrators (GSIs), Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and ecosystem partners.

By bringing together cutting-edge infrastructure technologies, hybrid cloud capabilities and AI solutions under one roof, the centre is designed to accelerate the development and deployment of secure, scalable and responsible enterprise AI systems, IBM said in a statement.

"India is at a pivotal moment in its AI journey, and infrastructure will define the pace and scale at which organisations can innovate," said Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India & South Asia.

"Across industries, enterprises in India are modernising mission-critical systems to become AI-ready. This centre reflects IBM's long-term commitment to India and strengthens our ability to design, build, and scale infrastructure solutions locally, tailored to India's unique market needs, while contributing to global innovation. As India advances toward becoming a global AI leader, resilient, secure, and high-performance infrastructure will be the bedrock of that transformation," he added.

Subhathra Srinivasaraghavan, Vice-President, IBM India Systems Development Lab, said, "AI is only as powerful as the infrastructure that supports it. From hybrid cloud platforms to data architectures and automation, the backbone of AI lies in robust, secure and scalable infrastructure."

"The centre brings together deep systems engineering expertise and ecosystem collaboration to help clients operationalise AI at scale, while ensuring performance, security, governance, and reliability across mission-critical environments," she added.

A recent study by the IBM Institute for Business Value found that 58% of Indian organisations have increased infrastructure investments due to rising AI demand.

MBRDI inks agreement with IIT-Delhi for joint research

NEW DELHI, PTI: Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) on Thursday said it has tied up with IIT-Delhi for joint research programmes.

The entities formalised this through a five-year master research agreement. The association will focus on areas that support the future of mobility and engineering systems, MBRDI said. These include quantum technologies, future materials, neuromorphic engineering, and electric mobility, where fundamental research and applied engineering intersect to create opportunities for knowledge development and IP creation, it added.

KEEPING RATES LOW

'Iran war to weigh more on Indian growth than inflation'

MUMBAI, REUTERS

The US and Israel's attack on Iran is expected to weigh more on India's economic growth than its inflation, which will encourage the Reserve Bank of India to keep interest rates low, three sources familiar with policymakers' thinking and analysts said.

The conflict, which has rippled out across much of West Asia, has pushed up oil prices by about 15%, disrupted gas flows from the region and triggered selloffs in Indian equity, debt and currency markets, with the rupee hitting a record low and bond yields rising due to concerns about India's current account deficit and the risk of higher inflation.

Despite a weaker rupee and higher crude prices, the central bank is unlikely to take a hawkish turn, all three sources said.

Current assessments could change, one of the sources cautioned, in case of extreme developments in the Middle East.

The thinking of policymakers appears to have diverged from the market reaction.

Interest rates have risen in emerging and global markets since the Gulf conflict broke out. Traders in India's swap markets have added to bets on at least one rate increase over the next 12 months.

"I don't feel the market has sufficiently priced the risk from oil prices rising significantly and there could be room for swap rates to move even higher if Brent oil holds above $80 per barrel over the next couple of weeks," said Ritesh Bhusari, Joint General Manager for Treasury at South Indian Bank.

The RBI's rate-setting panel, which meets for its next policy review in about a month, paused rate cuts at its last meeting in February, after reducing the policy repo rate by 125 basis points in 2025.

The sources declined to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media. An email sent to the RBI on Wednesday seeking comment was not answered.

Conflict in the Middle East has muddied the picture for central bank policy projections globally. Traders have pushed back wagers on rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve while adding to bets on a hike by the European Central Bank.

A rise in oil prices above $100 per barrel or a faster-than-expected pass-through of costs could run the risk of turning global monetary policy more hawkish, according to analysts at Goldman Sachs.

King Louis wins Aperitivo Cup

KOLKATA RESULTS

Neild Darashah-trained King Louis and ridden by Suraj Narredu won the Aperitivo Cup, the feature event of the races on Thursday.

1. Diabolical Handicap - 1200M: Swift Lady (Suraj Narredu) 1; Dubai Prince (N Darshan) 2; Horus The Great (Gaurav Singh) 3; Mountain Gold (Hindu Singh) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, Lnk, 3-1/4L. T: 1:14.11. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Dubai Prince.

2. Toroloco Handicap - 1100M: Superlative (N Darshan) 1; Lavish Girl (Farid Ansari) 2; Chililady (MS Deora) 3; Most And More (Abhishek Mhatre) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1-1/4, 1L. T: 1:05. 18. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Lavish Girl.

3. Prince Blossom Cup - 1100M: Cielo (Trevor Patel) 1; Princess S (Suraj Narredu) 2; fifty Shades (Ashhad Asbar) 3; Peaberry (Tejeshwar) 4; 1, 1-1/4L, Nk. T: 1:05.99. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Princess S.

4. Aperitivo Cup - 1400M: King Louis (Suraj Narredu) 1; Charismatic (Vinod Shinde) 2; Abhicandra (Hindu Singh) 3; Kings Retreat (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: Lnk, 1-1/4, 1/2L. T: 1:24.28. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: King Louis.

5. Colombiana Handcap - 1600M: Xanthe (Hindu Singh) 1; Booster Shot (Abhishek Mhatre) 2; Mindful (Suraj Narredu) 3; Multiverse (Tejeshwar) 4; Wb: 1/2, 2-1/2, 1-3/4L. T: 1:37.69. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Mindful.

6. Dare To Dream Handicap - 2000M: Divine Gift (Suraj Narredu) 1; Garth (Ashad Asbar) 2; Cascade (Imran Chisty) 3; Sanaya (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 1L. T: 2:08.38. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Divine Gift.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 30w; 13, 10, 24p; Fc: Rs 98; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 649 & 479; 3 Ex: Rs 1,887 & 511.
II race: Rs 55w; 21, 13, 16p; Fc: Rs 420; Q: Rs 135; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 1m378 & 724; Ex: Rs 9,577 & 16,419.
III race: Rs 20w; 11, 11, 13p; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 15; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 75 & 36; Ex: Rs 293 & 240.
IV race: Rs 22w; 11, 14, 13p; Fc: Rs 71; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs; 45; Tri: Rs 242 & 97; Ex: Rs 2,064 & 1,327.
V race: Rs 28w; 10, 17, 11p; Fc: Rs 207; Q: Rs 110; Shp: Rs 44; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 292 & 67; Ex: Rs 4,072 & 3,141.
VI race: Rs 14w; 11, 26p; Fc: Rs 101; Q: Rs 95; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 230 & 60; Ex: Rs 225 & 87.
Jackpot: Rs 4,657 (95).
Runner-up: Rs 814 (233). **I treble:** Rs 697 (79). **II treble:** Rs 237 (351).

Shine for feature

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Shine, from the stables of Vijay Singh and to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, will garner the maximum support in the Echoes Of Light Handicap, the feature event of the races to be run over a sprint on Friday. The firts race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Royal Mantle Handicap - 1600M: Carnation 1, Simran's Attitude 2, Mogambo 3.
2. Adiella Handicap - 1100M: Cashaban 1, Diamond Gold 2, Blazing Black 3.
3. Obligado Handicap - 1200M: Contessina 1, Anata Sukha 2, Dr Doom 3.
4. Averoff Cup - 1600M: Star Power 1, Global Fashion 2, Adeya 3.
5. Echoes Of Light Handicap - 1200M: Shine 1, Oishika 2, Knotty Blush 3.
6. Obelensky Handicap - 2000M: Dusenberg 1, Multi Success 2, Black Diamond 3.
Day's best: Carnation.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
I treble: 1, 2, 3.
II treble: 4, 5, 6.

TENNIS ITF W35 KALABURAGI

Vaishnavi, Ankita advance

Duo only Indians to enter singles quarters as fifth seed Zeel loses

BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian players Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina produced commanding performances to move into the quarterfinals of the women's singles at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium on Thursday.

Third seed Vaishnavi cruised past Anna Siedysheva with a dominant 6-2, 6-0 win. The match began with comfortable service holds from both players before Adkar began to apply pressure with sharp returns in the sixth game to create three break points, Adkar eventually broke after a deuce battle and backed it up with a confident service hold to move 5-2 ahead.

She secured the first set 6-2 with a decisive overhead smash after another tight game. Carrying that momentum into the second set, Adkar broke early as Sedysheva began committing more errors, while the Indian maintained consistent pressure on serve. Despite a few powerful hits from Sedysheva, Adkar remained clinical to wrap up the second set without conceding a game.

Unseeded Russian Elina Nepliy returns during her win over fifth-seeded Zeel Desai of India at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ TAJUDDIN AZAD

Eighth seed Ankita Raina also advanced comfortably, defeating Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1.

Elsewhere, Elina Nepliy edged past fifth seed Zeel Desai in a closely fought encounter, prevailing 7-6 (3), 6-3 to move into the quarterfinals.

Results: Singles 2nd round: 3-Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt Anna Siedysheva 6-2, 6-0; 8-Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1; Elina Nepliy bt 5-Zeel Desai (Ind) 7-6 (3), 6-3; 1-Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) bt Eva Marie Desvignes (Sgp) 7-5, 7-5; 2-Anchisa Chanta (Tha) bt Polina Kuharenko 6-3, 6-3; 6-Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) bt Sofia Martianova 6-3, 6-0; Maayan Laron (Isr) bt 7-Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 6-1; Evgeniya Burdina bt Sofiia Suslova 7-6 (1), 6-2.

Saloni, Mithila help Karnataka coast to victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: All-round performances from Saloni P and Mithila Vinod helped Karnataka coast to a 79-run victory over Baroda in the BCCI Women's under-23 One-day Trophy at the Jaipuria Vidhyalaya Ground in Jaipur on Thursday.

Having been inserted to bat first at the toss, Karnataka, riding contributions from Saloni (50 not out), Rachitha Hatwar (45), Mithila Vinod (37) and Shreya S Chavan (34), posted 232/8 in 50 overs.

Chasing 233 for victory, despite a fighting fifty from Vidhi H Parmar (54), Baroda could only manage 153 all out in 37.2 overs.

Saloni (3/15), Mithila (2/24) and Pooja Kumar M (2/18) shared seven wickets between them.

Karnataka next meet Madhya Pradesh on March 7.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 232/8 in 50 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 45, Mithila Vinod 37, Shreya S Chavan 34, Saloni P 50 n.o.; Vidhi H Parmar 2-35) bt Baroda: 153 all out in 37.2 overs (Vidhi S Parmar 54, Saloni P 3-15, Mithila Vinod 2-24, Pooja Kumar M 2-18).

EB, FC Goa in a drab draw

KOLKATA, PTI: East Bengal FC and FC Goa played out a goalless draw in their Indian Super League match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Thursday.

The Gaurs are provisionally third in the table while the Red and Gold brigade are a place below.

Sociedad reach Copa final

SAN SEBASTIAN (SPAIN), AFP

Mikel Oyarzabal slotted home a late penalty to fire Real Sociedad into the Copa del Rey final with a 1-0 win over Basque rivals Athletic Club Bilbao on Wednesday, securing a 2-0 aggregate semifinal triumph.

American coach Pellegrino Matarazzo has turned La Real's fortunes around since arriving in December and his side will face Atletico Madrid in the Seville final on April 18, after they ousted Barcelona.

Already holding a 1-0 lead from the first leg at Athletic's San Mames, Real Sociedad produced a sturdy display at the Reale Arena to knock out the 24-time winners.

"Very proud of what the boys have done, over the past two months, it's pretty amazing," said Matarazzo.

"Our first match was on the fourth of January... and we just reached the cup final.

"The football we're playing is effective and we want to continue... we're in the final and we want to win it."

Real Sociedad have now not lost in their last 10 derby clashes at home against Athletic, whom they beat in the 2020 final, and rarely looked like letting their advantage slip.

"I think having the one goal advantage helped, we managed the tempo well," Real Sociedad defender Jon Martin told Movistar.

"We didn't want a lot to happen, and we did well."

La Real had the better of a tense first half, with Carlos Soler coming closest. The midfielder's free-kick, flying towards the top corner, was tipped over by Athletic goalkeeper Alex Padilla.

Matarazzo's team had more of the ball and forced the visitors back, albeit without carving out many more openings.

Result: Real Sociedad: 1 (Mikel Oyarzabal 87th) bt Athletic Bilbao: 0 (Real Sociedad win 2-0 on aggregate).

Real Sociedad's Mikel Oyarzabal celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Athletic Bilbao in the second leg of the Copa Del Rey semifinal in San Sebastian. AFP

South Zone sink against West Zone

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Zone suffered a big 131-run defeat against West Zone in the semifinals of the Vizzy Trophy at the Panjim Gymkhana Ground in Panaji on Thursday.

Half-centuries by top-order batters Ramdev (70) and Amit Rathod (53) set up the foundation for a big total for WZ, who were eventually bowled out for 303 in 49.2 overs.

Chasing the target, SZ were 172 all out in 33.4 overs with Rishav Appachu (51) and Paras Raj (38) putting up a small fight while Amit came back to bowl a 3/29 spell.

Brief scores: West Zone: 303 all out in 49.2 overs (Ramdev 70, Amith Rathod 53, TM Tiwari 47, Lukcyraj 43) bt South Zone: 172 all out in 33.4 overs (Paras Raj 38, Rishav Appachu 51, Samarth Hegde 26; Amit Rathod 3-29, Adityaraj Rathore 3-43, DR Gajraj 4-54).

MSRIT beat DSCE to be crowned champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) defeated Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering (DSCE) by 41 runs in the final of the MS Ramaiah memorial state-level inter-engineering colleges cricket tournament at the BEL Ground on Thursday.

LOCAL CRICKET

Half centuries by Sreecharan (68) and Vishnu Goudar (58) took MSRIT to 229/6 in 30 overs. In response, DSCE were 188 all out with five balls to spare as Rohan N bowled a 6/31 spell.

Brief scores: MSRIT: 229/6 in 30 overs (Sreecharan 68, Vishnu G Goudar 58; Karthikeyan 2-48, Rohit 2-41) bt DSCE: 188 all out in 29.1 overs (Vibhu M 78, Sainanda N 51; Rohan N 6-31, Pranesh 2-32).

Diksha cards 3-under to lie T-20

MAGENTA SHORES (AUSTRALIA), PTI: Diksha Dagar carded three-under 69 to lie tied 20th as the best-placed Indian at the Australian Women's Classic that got underway on the Ladies European Tour here.

The top Indian star had two bogeys on her first nine as she started from the back nine of the Magenta Shores course.

She had a bogey start but recovered with three birdies in the next four holes, and bogeyed the 18th to turn in 1-under. On the second nine, she birdied twice to finish with a 69.

Among the other Indians, Pranavi Urs (72) was the next best at T-52 while Avani Prashanth (77) was at T-118 as Hitaashee Bakshi (82) struggled in the first round.

Elliot Anderson

Arsenal gain, Manchester City slip in title race

LONDON, AFP: Premier League leaders Arsenal stretched their lead over Manchester City to seven points on Wednesday with a nervy win at Brighton, while Pep Guardiola's men were held to a costly 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest.

The Gunners have long been favourites to win their first English league crown since 2004 but Pep Guardiola's men have loomed large in their rear-view mirror.

On a busy night of action, Arsenal drew first blood in the battle for English title as Bukayo Saka celebrated his 300th Arsenal appearance with a goal in the ninth minute at Brighton's Amex Stadium.

The Englishman received the ball on the right before cutting in and hitting a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Results: Manchester City: 2 (Semenyo 31st, Rodri 62nd) drew with Nottingham Forest: 2 (Gibbs-White 56th, Anderson 76th); Brighton: 0 It to Arsenal: 1 (Saka 9th); Aston Villa: 1 (Luiz 2nd) It to Chelsea: 4 (Joao Pedro 35th, 45+6th, 64th, Palmer 55th); Fulham: 0 It to West Ham: 1 (Summerville 65th); Newcastle: 2 (Gordon 45+6th P, Osula 90th) bt Manchester United: 1 (Casemiro 45+9th).

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore – 570023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.22/ 2025-26/ DATED: 09-02-2026 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per KW- 4 through e-procurement under the Head of Account 2025-26 Year CMIDP for Mysore & Nanjangud Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online Date: 23-02-2026 to 16-03-2026 upto 16.00 hours. Pre-bid Meeting in Office Date: 09-03-2026 at 16.00 Hours. The date of opening of technical bid of the tender Date: 17-03-2026 after 17.00 hours. After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Contractor Eligibility
1	Construction of CC road and CC drain on the streets of the general category of Halekebbepura, Devarasanahalli, Gonathagala, Hemmaragala, Bhujgayanahundi, Geekahalli, Doddakoulande, Kottanahalli, Naganapura,Kudlapura and Elachagere villages in Nanjangud taluk (RDPR/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT23802)	375.00	315.77	4,75,000.00	Class – II & above
2	Construction of CC road and CC drain on the streets of the general category of M.Kongahalli, Hosakote(Masage), Devi rammanahalli, Aakala, Madanahalli, Karya, Mada pura, Kallupura, Anjanapura, Beredevanapura, Hadyadahundi and H.Kongahalli (Heggadahalli) villages in Nanjangud taluk (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK _ INDENT23779)	375.00	316.06	4,75,000.00	Class – II & above
3	CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD, CC ROAD AND DRAIN IN DOORA,TALOORU, DODDAKA ATURU,DODDAKANYA, CHIKKAKANYA, D SALUNDI, YADAHALLI, KOTEHUNDI AND GUJJEGOWDANAPURA VILLAGE LIMITS AT MYSORE TALUK, MYSOREDISTRICT (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24606)	350.00	293.89	4,41,000.00	Class – II & above
4	CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD CC ROAD AND DRAIN IN BHADREGOWDANAKOPPALU, ILVALA, HOSAKOTE, ERAPPANA KOPPALU, DADADAKALLAHALLI,GUNGRALCHATHRA, MAIDANAHALLI, CHIKKANAHALLI, UNDUVADI, EDAHALLI AND MALLE GOWDANA KOPPALU VILLAGE LIMITS AT MYSORE TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT (RDPR/202526/ RD/ WORK_INDENT24607)	370.00	310.56	4,66,000.00	Class – II & above
5	CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD CC ROAD AND DRAIN IN D.M.G.HALLI, DODDAHATTIHUNDI, NAGARTAHALLI, AANA GAHALLI, BALLAHALLI,DEVAGAHALLI, GOPALAPURA,MULLURU, DHANAGAHALLI, THIBBAYYANAHUNDI,KAMANAKEREHUNDI AND KALASTAVADI VILLAGE LIMITS AT MYSORE TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT (RDPR/202526/RD/ WORK_INDENT 24608)	380.00	320.81	4,81,250.00	Class – II & above

For more details visit website: htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore (Ph: 0821-2560853) during office hours.

AE Phone No.
8123267587/9901040070

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Mysore

DIPR/DDMYS/1775/KSMCA/1003/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಜಗಳೂರು. ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08196-227106 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:- ghjagaluru@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಸಾಆ(ಜ)/ನಾನ್-ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ನಾನ್-ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳು: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03.03.2026 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ : 6503587/- (3) ಅನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು E-Procurement Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ 18.03.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4:30ರವರೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (7) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ : ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.6503587/- ಕ್ಕೆ EMD 2% ರೂ.130072.00 (8) E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees : KPP Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ (9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ : ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಗಳೂರು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08196-227106 ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/798/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಗಳೂರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ,ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ-35/2025-26/5604 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-03-2026

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-3 & 4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 11-03-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 12-03-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 13-03-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 16-03-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP During 2025-26 ವರ್ಷ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ (1) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 33742 (2) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32931
ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : Mitigation- 8443-Deposite Contribution During 2025-26 ವರ್ಷ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ (1) PWD/2025-26/FP/WORK_INDENT34090 (2) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32837 (3) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32836

(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-3 & 4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1176/25-26 dt. 05.03.2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,Minor Irrigation and Ground water development Divison, Mandya
E mail: eemimandya@gmail.com
No:EE:MID/MDY/TA/AE/TB-15/2025-26:796 **Date:03.03.2026**

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 15/2025-26, Dated: 03-03-2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D Division, Mandya invited item wise Tender from eligible contractors under " KPP " Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-1, KW-2 and KW-4 there are 10 No's of works amount put to tender ranging from Rs. 7.80 Lakhs to as high as Rs.300.00 Lakhs. The Details are as below.

Sl. No	Head of Account	Works	Last date of Uploading the tender in KPPP & Time	Technical Bid Opening date & Time	Financial Bid Opening date & Time
1	4711-FLOOD	1	Dt:27.03.2026, 17-29 Hours,	Dt:28.03.2026, 17-30 Hours	Dt:30.03.2026 17-30 Hours
2	4702-A&P	3			
3	4702-MOT	1			
4	4702-SCP-Check Dam	1			
5	2702-O&M	4	Dt:17.03.2026 17-30 Hours	Dt:18.03.2026 17-30 Hours	Dt:20.03.2026 17-30 Hours

Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during Working hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website "www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in". Note: All the rights and decisions if any of all works or any of the work of this tender reserved by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for each work is published in the "www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in " Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections /Date Changes/ Addendum and Corrigendum regarding each individual works will be published separately in "kpp " portal only.

ಬಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಣ-ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/863/2025-26

Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.

INDIA PREVAIL OVER England in a run-fest thriller

Hosts sneak into final after acing a 499-run semifinal

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Maximum City witnessed maximum entertainment as familiar foes India and England went hell for leather on an absolute belter of a surface with the Men In Blue outlasting the Three Lions in a nerve-jangling second semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Taking off from where he had left off at the Eden Gardens in a virtual quarterfinal against the West Indies, Sanju Samson smashed a scorching 89 off not out off 42 balls at a boisterous Wankhede Stadium to lay the foundation for an all-out assault on England.

Ishan Kishan (39), Shivam Dube (43) and Hardik Pandya (27) built on that brilliantly with knocks of brute force to power the defending champions to a massive 253/7 in 20 overs — the highest score in a knockout game of the T20 World Cup.

Although England had some of the biggest hitters in their line-up and the pitch was a batting paradise where one could hit through the line with eyes closed, it still needed some chasing, especially with a capacity crowd against them.

They went for it with gusto and almost made a match out of it through Jacob Bethell, who smashed an exceptional 105 (48b, 8x4, 7x6) and forged a blistering 77-run partnership off 39 balls for the fifth wicket with England's MVP Will Jacks (35).

The way the duo were smashing everything in their sight to ensure England were always in the chase, India kept feeling the jitters.

Anything was possible given how bowlers were reduced to mere machines with no margin for error.

But an extraordinary piece of fielding in the 14th over where Axar Patel relayed a catch off Jacks to Dube at the boundary line, shifted the much-needed momentum towards India.

England though never gave up with Sam Curran (18) and Bethell continuing the carnage with a 50-run partnership off 27 balls.

But a brilliant 18th over from Jasprit Bumrah where he gave away just 6 runs and an equally good 19th from Hardik, who dismissed Curran and conceded just 9 runs, brought the equation to 30 off the last over.

Dube maintained his composure to stall England to 246/7, India scoring a 7-run win to set up a final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

When England skipper Harry Brook, wary of dew, unsurprisingly asked India to bat first, the hosts got what they wanted, at least as per captain Suryakumar Yadav's admission at the toss.

Yes, the wet conditions do make life harder for the team defending a target, but if the ones batting first can post a massive total, it does put the team chasing under pressure right from the onset. And that was India's goal right from the moment they took strike. Samson, having got his juices flowing in Kolkata, came charging off the blocks, smashing England's lead pacer Jofra Archer for a boundary and six in the third and fourth balls of the opening over.

Batting in T20s is all about confidence and fortune, and Samson had both going his way in a knock of the highest quality. He was dropped by Brook off Archer when on 15, but thereafter the 31-year-old absolutely pulverised the Three Lions with some breathless hitting. One-drop Ishan Kishan, who came in after another failure from opener Abhishek Sharma, doesn't need a second invitation to play fearless cricket, but watching Samson explode with utter ease, he took to the field all guns blazing.

When the duo were out in the middle during a record 97-run stand for the second wicket — this was India's highest partnership for any wicket in a knockout game of the T20 World Cup — every over had at least two boundaries.

The way they were going, a total in excess of 250 seemed imminent. They got it and a shot at retaining their title in the end.

Sanju Samson scored a 42-ball 89 to play a key role in India's seven-run win over England in their T20 World Cup semifinal in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Samson c Salt b Jacks (42b, 8x4, 7x6)	89
Abhishek c Salt b Jacks (7b, 2x4)	9
Kishan c Jacks b Rashid (18b, 4x4, 2x6)	39
Dube (run out) (25b, 1x4, 4x6)	43
Suryakumar st Buttler b Rashid (6b, 1x6)	11
Pandya (run out) (12b, 3x4, 2x6)	27
Varma b Archer (7b, 3x6)	21
Axar (not out) (2b)	2
Chakravarthy (not out) (1b)	0
Extras (B-2, LB-1, W-9)	12
TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs)	**253**

Fall of wickets: 1-20 (Abhishek), 2-117 (Kishan), 3-160 (Samson), 4-190 (Suryakumar), 5-212 (Dube), 6-236 (Varma), 7-251 (Pandya).

Bowling: Archer 4-0-61-1 (w-2), Jacks 4-0-40-2 (w-1), Overton 3-0-36-0 (w-1), Curran 4-0-53-0 (w-4), Rashid 4-0-41-2, Dawson 1-0-19-0 (w-1).

ENGLAND

Salt c Axar b Pandya (3b, 1x4)	5
Buttler b Chakravarthy (17b, 4x4, 1x6)	25
Brook c Axar b Bumrah (6b, 1x4)	7
Bethell (run out) (48b, 8x4, 7x6)	105
Banton b Axar (5b, 1x4, 2x6)	17
Jacks c Dube b Arshdeep (20b, 4x4, 2x6)	35
Curran c Varma b Pandya (14b, 2x4)	18
Overton (not out) (3b)	2
Archer (not out) (4b, 3x6)	19
Extras (LB-3, W-10)	13
TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs)	**246**

Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Salt), 2-38 (Brook), 3-64 (Buttler), 4-95 (Banton), 5-172 (Jacks), 6-222 (Curran), 7-225 (Bethell).

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-51-1 (w-5), Pandya 4-0-38-2 (w-1), Bumrah 4-0-33-1 (w-1), Chakravarthy 4-0-64-1 (w-1), Axar 3-0-35-1, Dube 1-0-22-0 (w-1).

Result: India won by 7 runs.
PoM: Sanju Samson.
Final: India vs New Zealand (March 8, Ahmedabad).

HIGHEST TOTALS IN T20 WORLD CUP

Total	By	Vs	Venue	Year
260/6	SL	Kenya	Johannesburg	2007
256/4	Ind	Zim	Chennai	2026
254/6	WI	Zim	Mumbai	2026
253/7	Ind	Eng	Mumbai	2026

HIGHEST TOTALS IN KNOCKOUTS OF T20 WC

Total	By	Vs	Venue	Year
253/7	**Ind**	**Eng**	**Mumbai**	**2026**
205/4	WI	Aus	Colombo (RPS)	2012
197/7	Aus	Pak	Gros Islet	2010
196/3	WI	Ind	Mumbai	2016
192/2	Ind	WI	Mumbai	2016

HIGHEST SCORES IN T20 WC KNOCKOUTS

Score	By	Vs	Venue	Year
105	**J Bethell**	**Ind**	**Mumbai**	**2026**
100*	F Allen (NZ)	SA	Kolkata	2026
96*	T Dilshan (SL)	WI	The Oval	2009
89	S Samson (Ind)	Eng	Mumbai	2026
89*	V Kohli (Ind)	WI	Mumbai	2016

HIGHEST SCORES FOR INDIA IN T20 WC

Score	By	Vs	Venue	Year
101	S Raina	SA	Gros Islet	2010
97*	S Samson	WI	Kolkata	2026
92	R Sharma	Aus	Gros Islet	2024
89	S Samson	Eng	Mumbai	2026
89*	V Kohli	WI	Mumbai	2016

HIGHEST MATCH AGGREGATE IN T20 WC

Runs	Match	Venue	Year
499	Ind v Eng	Mumbai	2026
459	Eng v SA	Mumbai	2016
440	Ind v Zim	Chennai	2026
419	SL v Pak	Pallekele	2026

MOST 6S HIT IN A T20 WC MATCH

6s	Match	Venue	Year
33	Ind v Eng	Mumbai	2026
31	WI v Zim	Mumbai	2026
30	Ire v Net	Sylhet	2014
28	Ind v Zim	Chennai	2026

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

Zadran takes over as Afghanistan T20I skipper

KABUL, AFP: Afghanistan replaced Rashid Khan with Ibrahim Zadran as skipper on Thursday for the T20I series against Sri Lanka but are still monitoring the situation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to stage the matches.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said Zadran's appointment is in alignment for future build-up.

"In alignment with the ACB's long-term strategic vision and following recent changes in our team management, we have made the thoughtful decision to appoint Zadran as new T20I skipper," ACB said in a statement.

T20I squad: Ibrahim Zadran (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Noor Rahman, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Shahidullah Kamal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Abdullah Ahmadzai
ODI squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ikram Alikhil, Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, AM Ghazanfar, Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Bilal Sami

Charter flight arranged for WI to return home

KOLKATA, PTI: The Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Thursday confirmed the arrangement of a charter flight for the Caribbean outfit to return home after it remained stranded in the city for more than four days due to international airspace restrictions triggered by the US and Israeli strikes on Iran.

"During a high-level call earlier today involving CWI, ICC officials, a representative of team management, and a representative of the players, it was confirmed that a charter flight is currently being arranged for the team's departure from India, with the expected departure scheduled within the next 24 hours," the Cricket West Indies said in a statement.

SA find way to implode again in the crunch

Unbeaten till the semifinal, Proteas fall to an efficient NZ

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

South Africa have lost yet another ICC knockout when least expected. For a team so rich in talent and history, the story continues to play itself on loop on the biggest stages of international cricket.

Having maintained an unbeaten run, the only team to do so in the 20-team tournament, the Proteas imploded against an unremarkable yet efficient New Zealand in the semifinal of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup. In the previous edition in the Americas, the Africans had invented ways to lose the final against India after taking a firm grip of the proceedings. The pattern feels painfully repetitive.

In Wednesday's semifinal at Eden Gardens, they were outclassed by the Kiwis, whose ability to punch above their weight is as astonishing as South Africa's tendency to unravel in crunch moments. South Africa did run into a tartar called Finn Allen, but when the pressure rose, the Proteas had blinked first. Their batting, which was awe inspiring till that moment, had come undone, making Kiwis' task easier.

The result adds another chapter to a long list of heartbreaks for South Africa in ICC tournaments. Over the years, South African sides have often dominated group stages, only to falter once the knockout pressure begins.

There was, however, a moment not long ago when it appeared the image may have finally changed. Last year, the Test side, led by Temba Bavuma, overcame their big-match nerves to win the ICC World Test Championship, the victory coming after they had battled back from a difficult position against the mighty Australia. That triumph was perceived as a psychological breakthrough for South African cricket -- a turning point that could reshape how the team approached major tournaments.

Instead, that success now appears to be a brief flash in the pan rather than the dawn of a new era.

Agreed, South Africa are not the only team to fall in a knockout match after dominating earlier rounds. Even the powerful Indian side experienced something similar in the 2023 ODI World Cup. After winning almost every match in ruthless fashion, India suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Australia in the final on home soil.

But South Africa's collapses carry a different feel because of how frequently they unfold. It remains a mystery why South Africa crumble at the first clear hint of pressure. The issue has been debated for decades, yet the explanation remains elusive. Their squads consistently feature world-class players, experienced leaders and match winners in every department. On paper, they rarely appear weaker than their opponents. Yet something dramatically changes once the stakes get higher.

Even more puzzling is how a proud cricketing nation, buzzing with talent and pedigree, has still not found the answer. Other teams have overcome similar reputations in the past. South Africa, however, continue to search for the formula that will finally liberate them from this cycle of setbacks. It's a mental blockade, no shrink seems capable of deciphering. But, as each new defeat adds to the baggage, the next high-pressure game becomes even harder to crack.

The plot has now become part of cricket folklore and the official broadcasters' promo -- distasteful as it was -- about South Africa's reputation in ICC events only reinforced that impression. In the ad, an Indian fan teases a Proteas supporter by offering a pink cupcake.

The joke may have been intended as lighthearted, but many felt it was in poor taste.

Still, the only way to silence such taunts is on the field. Winning ICC tournaments consistently is the only way to change the script and shift the narrative.

Until that happens, the dreaded C word, whether it refers to chokers or cupcakes, will continue to hang around South Africa's neck like an albatross.

One of the favourites to win the title, South Africa suffered another knockout heartbreak in an ICC event when they lost to New Zealand in the T20 World Cup semifinal on Wednesday. PTI

'NZ took bull by the horns to stop SA'

KOLKATA, PTI

The recipe to halt the South African juggernaut was simple: win the toss and "take the bull by the horns", said explosive New Zealand opener Finn Allen after powering the Kiwis into the T20 World Cup final with the fastest ever hundred of the tournament.

South Africa had entered the semifinal as the form side of the tournament, being the only unbeaten team in the competition with seven successive wins. The Proteas had even defeated New Zealand in the group stage and also toppled tournament hosts and favourites India in the Super Eights.

But New Zealand were at their ruthless best as they knocked out the last edition's runners-up from the semifinal with a nine-wicket win that came with 43 balls to spare at Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

"We just hoped (skipper Mitchell) Santner would win a toss to start and he did that so that was the first part done and from then onwards it was just take the bull by the horns... Take the game on and not shy away from any challenge," said Allen, who slammed a 33-ball unbeaten 100, in the post-match media interaction.

Put in, South Africa failed to get going in the powerplay with off-spin all-rounder Cole McConchie taking the wickets of Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton in successive deliveries in the second over.

Thereafter, it was the turn of Rachin Ravindra and Matt Henry to tighten the noose to restrict South Africa to an under-par total at a venue where India chased down West Indies' 196 the other day.

"The bowlers...set the tone for us and taking early wickets on what we thought was going to be a really good batting wicket, was extremely important.

"They've (South Africa) got an incredibly powerful batting line-up and hats off to the boys. They set it up for us with the bowl and as I said we didn't really have a plan...," said Allen.

The Kiwis also analysed their group stage defeat to the Proteas in Ahmedabad and built on the positives.

"We looked closely at that first game against them," he said. "They've been outstanding all tournament, backing up performances. But playing them earlier gave us a bit of insight into their plans and we tried to use that to our advantage."

Allen said while the Eden Gardens had a largely neutral crowd, his parents were likely among the few watching live back home in New Zealand, where the semifinal was being played in the wee hours.

It was not a choke, but a bloody walloping: SA coach Conrad

KOLKATA, PTI

Not the one to mince words, South African head coach Shukri Conrad said his team's nine-wicket defeat to New Zealand in the T20 World Cup semifinal here was "not a choke but a walloping".

Chasing a tricky 170, New Zealand cantered home in 12.5 overs, powered by their openers on Wednesday night here. While Finn Allen's 100 not out off 33 balls was the fastest century in the event's history, equally explosive was Tim Seifert with a 33-ball 58.

The ouster added to South Africa's growing list of heartbreaks in ICC world tournaments. The 2024 runners-up had entered the semifinal as the tournament's only unbeaten side with seven wins on the trot including handing out defeats to New Zealand (group stage) and home favourites India (Super Eights).

"I don't know if tonight was a choke. I thought it was a bloody walloping," Conrad said bluntly when the 'C' word was brought up given South Africa's past record of imploding in high-pressure games.

Shukri Conrad

"In order for you to choke, you must have had a sniff in the game. We didn't have a sniff. In South Africa, we'd say we 'got moered (violent assault)'," he added in his inimitable style

He then used his native Afrikaans to best sum up the defeat.

"Tonight, we got a proper 'snotklap' -- that's an Afrikaans word for a real hiding, a smack you don't see coming. That's what it felt like," said Conrad, who had courted controversy during last year's Test series in India with fiery comments about wanting the Indian team to "grovel".

The literal meaning of Afrikaans term 'snotklap' is "snot smack", referring to a blow to the face or nose, so severe that it knocks the 'snot out of the nose. The New Zealand bowlers set up the contest nicely with Cole McConchie removing Quinton de Kock (10) and Ryan Rickelton (0) in consecutive deliveries in the second over after they won a good toss.

Later, Rachin Ravindra and Matt Henry stifled South Africa in the middle overs as none of their star batters -- Aiden Markram (18 off 20), David Miller (6), Dewald Brevis (34) -- could swing their bats.

It was Marco Jansen (55 not out; 30 balls) and Tristan Stubbs (29) who lifted their total in the death overs.

New Zealand's Finn Allen said if they play their best cricket they can beat anybody. PTI

IN BRIEF

SWR Mysore beat Bharath SU

▸ South Western Railways, Mysore posted a big win over Bharath SU 86-18 in the league stage of the Mathru Cup State-level women's basketball championship for the SMN Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium basketball courts, reports DHNS.

Results: South Western Railways, Mysore 86: (Sathya 28 points, Sruthi Arvind 27) bt Bharath SU: 18 (Archana 10th). Ht 51-7; DYES Mysore 62 (Sanika 8, Vaishnavi 8) bt All Star Mysore: 28 (Shravani 20, Lahari 06). HT: 24-12; Mounts BC: 36 (Nakshatra 12, Nidhi 5) bt Pattabhi-ramanagar C: 14 (Gauri 9). HT: 14-3. Beagles BC 59 (Swathi 16, Kousthubha 10) beat Viveks SC 30 (Anantha 12) Ht 35-12; JSC: 83 (Taaruahee 26, Deblina 19) bt DYES Vidyanagar: 31 (Vibha 12, Nireeksha 07). HT: 49-19; Young Orions SC: 63 (Sarayu 20, Bindhushree 20, Isabel 12) bt Rajmahal BC: 54 (Nikitha 19, Aadya 16). HT: 28-34.

Finalissima is on in Qatar

▸ UEFA still plans for Qatar to stage the Argentina vs Spain game known as Finalissima this month even as the emirate is targeted by Iranian missiles in the widening Middle East war started by Israel and the USA, reports AFP from Nyon.

"At present, no alternative venues are being considered," UEFA said.

SAI's unique help for athletes

▸ With shipping containers repurposed into housing units awaiting them as accommodation in this year's Asian Games, makeshift containers are being installed at the Sports Authority of India Centres in Patiala and Bengaluru to help the athletes familiarise with the concept and "avoid being shocked" when they land in Japan, reports PTI from New Delhi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Test: Australia vs India women (**Day 1, 10:50 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

ISL: Odisha vs Mohun Bagan (**5 pm**), Jamshedpur vs Inter Kashi (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **FanCode**.

BADMINTON

All England Open: Quarterfinals (**3 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Australian GP (**Practice 1, 7 am**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

BADMINTON ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lakshya cuts Long stint short

Indian shuttler posts a thrilling 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 win to enter the quarterfinal

BIRMINGHAM, PTI

A relentless Lakshya Sen produced a gritty performance to beat Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long and storm into the men's singles quarterfinals of the All England Open Badminton Championships here on Thursday.

World No. 12 Lakshya, a finalist at the 2022 edition, looked razor sharp as he fought through intense rallies and physical exchanges to outlast Ng Ka Long, a former world top 10 player, 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 in a pulsating round-of-16 contest.

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, will face either China's sixth seed Li Shi Feng or Ireland's Nhat Nguyen next.

Lakshya came into the match after losing all three encounters against his opponent and fell behind initially in the opening game. He fought back from 4-6 down to establish a 15-11 lead, keeping the pressure on his opponent with aggressive returns and sharp placement.

He extended the advantage to 17-13 with a well-timed overhead attack, but Ng Ka Long refused to fade away and narrowed the gap late in the game.

At 15-17, Lakshya left one at the backline but it was judged out. The Indian had no video challenges left and had to let it go. The Indian then produced a sharp smash to reach 19-17, but Ng Ka Long clawed back to 19-19 with a cross-court winner.

Another jump smash gave Lakshya a game point and he sealed it when Ng Ka Long hit wide.

Lakshya kept his shot quality consistent and mixed his power with precision to take a 11-4 lead at the interval of the second game. Lakshya dished out another phenomenal straight smash to make it 14-7.

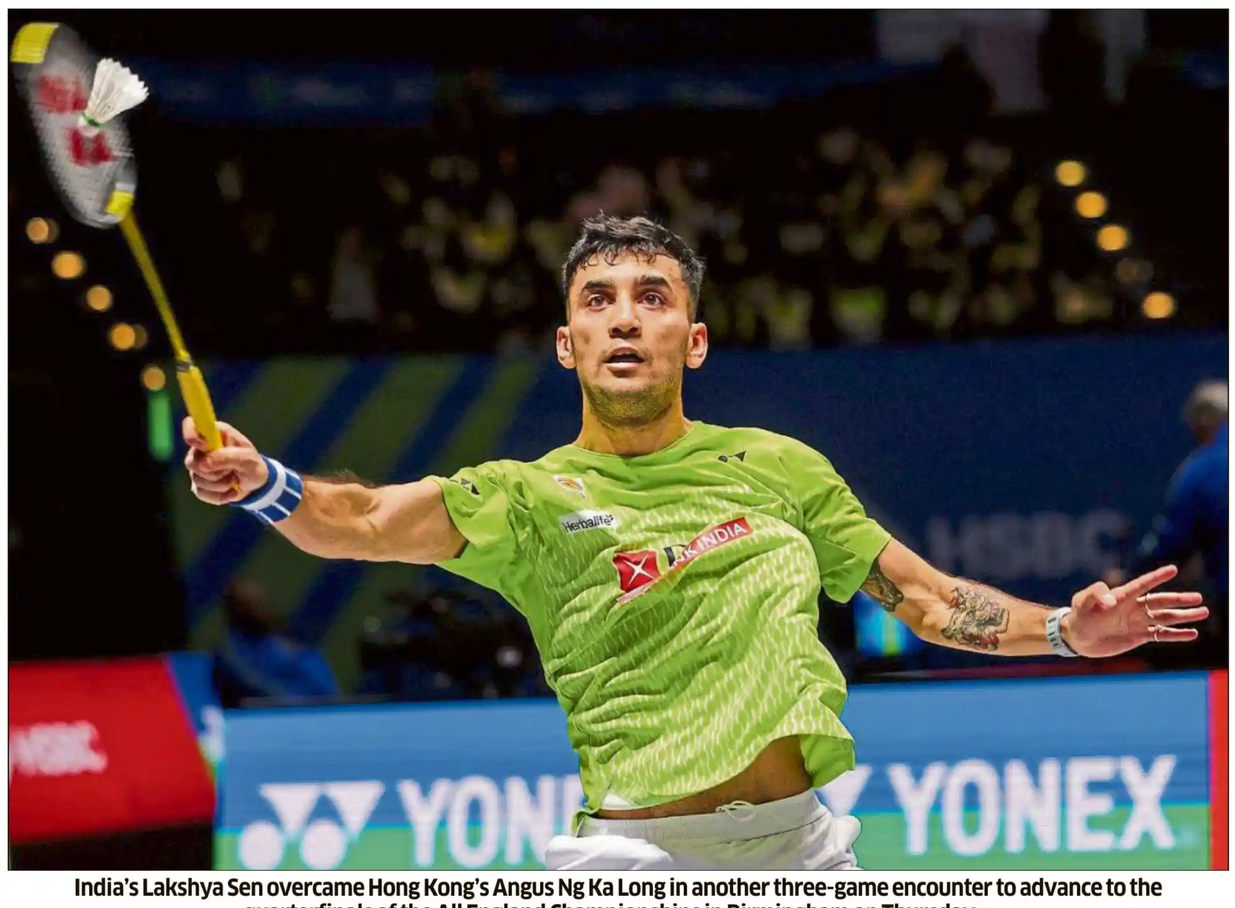
Ng Ka Long then produced a spirted fightback to bring the score to 17-19. Another incredible cross-court smash brought up three match points for Lakshya.

But Lakshya missed one, and then Ng Ka Long found the line by a millimetre before saving another to make it 20-20.

Lakshya grabbed another match point, only to give it away and then Ng Ka Long earned a game point with a smash and forced the match into the decider.

Lakshya had to reset his mind and start afresh and showed great mental strength as he surged to 6-2 lead with some exciting shots. His defence was robust as Ng Ka Long couldn't get past anything.

Lakshya then upped the speed and injected pace into the rallies to move to 18-7. Lakshya soon earned 11 match points when Ka Long found the net. He wasted one before another shot from the Hong Kong shuttler sailed out.



India's Lakshya Sen overcame Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long in another three-game encounter to advance to the quarterfinals of the All England Championships in Birmingham on Thursday. X

Ind-Aus begin final tussle in one-off pink-ball Test

PERTH, PTI

Hammered in the ODIs, the Indian women's cricket team would expect the senior players to step up with inspiring performances when it faces Australia in a day-night Test for the first time in nearly five years, starting here on Friday.

India would be brimming with confidence having remained unbeaten in their last five Tests. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side won won three consecutive Tests between December 2023 and July 2024 defeating England, Australia and South Africa respectively, but all those wins came on home soil.

India's last two overseas Tests ended in draws against England and Australia in 2021. The game against Australia in September-October of that year was a day-nighter that the visitors drew. A major highlight of that match was Smriti Mandhana, who scored the second of her two Test hundreds at that time.

The pink ball Test will conclude the multi-format series between the two rivals. India won the T20Is before being blanked in the ODIs, giving Australia an 8-4 lead in the points tally.

While two points each were on offer for T20 and ODI wins, the winner of the Test will get four points for an outright win. Australia would walk away with the overall honours if they are able to draw the match, but for India a win would be needed to sign off level in the final standings.

Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Sneh Rana, Amanjot Kaur, Uma Chetry (wk), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Kranti Gaud, Vaishnavi Sharma, Sayali Satghare. **Australia:** Alyssa Healy (c&wk), Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Nicola Carey, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Rachel Trenaman, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (right) hopes seniors will fire when India face Australia in the one-off Test. PTI FILE PHOTO

Maghsoodloo holds winless Gukesh

PRAGUE, PTI

World Champion D Gukesh's hunt for a win continued as Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo held the Indian ace to a draw in the seventh round of the masters section of the Prague International chess festival here.

With just two rounds remaining, Gukesh sits on the last spot with two points.

The four draws have come alongside three painful defeats and this could well be the time for the youngest ever world champion to look for certain reforms in his game.

Meanwhile, the other Indian in the event, defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram, drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan to remain on a fifty percent score after seven games.

Divya Deshmukh

The lone winner of the day was Vincent Keymer of Germany who defeated David Anton Guijarro of Spain leaving Dutchman Jorden van Foreest half a point ahead of his closest rivals David Navara of Czech Republic and Nodribek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Gukesh employed the Berlin defense and got a solid position with his black pieces against Maghsoodloo.

The Iranian was happy to keep the position intact for a long time and once black's queen side pawns were mobilised white was not too far away to take adequate measures in the centre.

The game was drawn after 49 moves.

In the challengers' section, Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh had another good result, holding Jonas Buhl Bjerre of Denmark to a draw while Grandmaster Surya Shekhar Ganguly finally scored his first victory at the expense of Jiner Zhu of China.

Results (Masters, round 7): Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI, 3.5) drew D Gukesh (Ind, 2); Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 3) drew Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 3); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5) bt David Anton Guijarro (Esp, 3.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) drew Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 5); David Navara (Cze, 4.5) drew Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 2.5).

Challengers: Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 3.5) lt to Daniil Yuffa (Esp, 4); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Ind, 2.5) bt Jiner Zhu (Chn, 2); Finek Vanclav (Cze, 5) drew Benjamin Gledura (Hun, 3.5) Nemec Jachym (Cze, 4) bt Hrbek Stepan (Cze, 3.5); Jonas Bjerre Buhl (Den, 3.5) drew Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 3.5).

Fearing permanent nerve damage from vibrating car, Alonso & Stroll may skip Aus GP

MELBOURNE, AFP: Aston Martin chief Adrian Newey on Thursday revealed Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll fear permanent nerve damage from extreme vibration in their cars and are unlikely to complete the Australian Grand Prix.

The Newey-designed car suffered issues through torrid pre-season testing, including an unreliable Honda power unit and a lack of spare parts.

They were the slowest car with the fewest laps, completing a total of just 128 over three days in Bahrain -- the equivalent of what many teams did in one day.

Matters have not improved as they prepare for the season-opening race in Melbourne this weekend.

Fernando Alonso inspects his Aston Martin car ahead of the Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. AFP

Newey revealed both drivers were suffering such severe vibration through the steering wheel that they would only be able to complete 25 and 15 laps respectively.

"That vibration into the chassis is causing a few reliability problems, mirrors falling off, tail lights falling off, all that sort of thing, which we are having to address," he said.

"But the much more significant problem with that is that vibration is transmitted ultimately into the driver's fingers.

"Fernando is of the feeling that he can't do more than 25 laps consecutively before he will risk permanent nerve damage into his hands.

"Lance is of the opinion that he can't do more than 15 laps before that threshold," added Newey.

TATA MOTORS
PASSENGER VEHICLES
TATA
ಯುಗಾದಿ
ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು
LAST CALL FOR THE BIGGEST DEALS OF THE SEASON.
INCREDIBLE OFFERS ON TATA MOTORS CARS UP TO ₹1 10 000##. BOOK NOW.
BOOK NOW
FOR
ASSURED DELIVERY
ALTROZ
TIAGO
NEXON
ALTROZ
Price Starts at ₹6.30 Lakh^^ | Additional discounts up to ₹1 10 000##
Low EMI starting ₹6777-
India's safest hatchback≠
India's only hatchback offering widest fuel & transmission choices
India's safest hatchback, and safest CNG, diesel car with 5-star BNCAP rating
Ultraview Twin-Screen 26.03cm Infotainment by Harman + 26.03cm Digital Instrument Cluster
360° HD SVS with Blindview monitor; 6 Airbags ESP, ISOFIX as standard
TIAGO
Price Starts at ₹4.57 Lakh^^ | Additional discounts up to ₹55 000##
Low EMI starting ₹4999-
India's 1st and only CNG hatchback with Auto Transmission¤
26.03cm Touchscreen Infotainment - First & Largest in Segment#
HD Reverse Parking Camera & Cruise Control◊
Wireless Apple Carplay™ & Android Auto™
R15 Dual Tone Alloy Wheels
NEXON
Price Starts at ₹7.31 Lakh^^ | Additional discounts up to ₹90 000##
Low EMI starting ₹7666-
India's highest selling SUV~~
Best in segment fuel economy of 24.07 kmpl[Ω] in Diesel AMT*
Tailor-made for Indian roads: 208mm Ground Clearance
India's 1st and most powerful Turbocharged CNG SUV
26.03cm Touchscreen Infotainment by HARMAN™ & Ventilated Leatherette Seats
book TATA Altroz
book TATA Tiago
book TATA Nexon
Available in Petrol, Diesel, CNG and EV+
SAFETY DOME 360° PROTECTION
BHARAT NCAP
ADISHAKTI CARS
Hebbal: 7506023837;
Dasarahalli: 9167982568;
Kalyana Nagar: 9167163087
BELLAD ENTERPRISES PVT LTD
Bommsandra
8238883535, 9035354160;
Sarajpura: 8879932503
CAUVERY MOTORS:
Avalahalli: 8879156068;
Mekhri Circle: 8422849049;
Devanahalli: 8879078454
KEY MOTORS
JP Nagar Kanakapura Road: 7506023980,
Mysore Road: 9167395034, Kanakapura City: 8879145649,
BG Road: 9167395164, Nelamangala: 9167881890,
Sunkadakatte Magadi Road: 9167882027
KHT MOTORS
Whitefield: 7506023988;
Domlur: 7506024006,
Kolar: 9731149668
KROPEX AUTO
Hosur Road: 7506024016,
Koramangala: 9167395364,
Sarjapur road: 8291202713,
Mahadevapura: 8291052641
PRERANA MOTORS
Lalbagh Road: 7506024020;
BTM Layout: 7506024118;
Rajajinagar: 7506024039;
Yelahanka: 9619489334
SREE AUTO
Tumkur: 7506024318,Tiptur: 9619050469,
Chitradurga: 9619033465, Kunigal: 8879046819,
Chikkaballapur: 9167082428, Chintamani: 8291927028
Images and illustrations are indicative and for information purposes only. All features/specifications/colors are not available in all variants and may vary for different variants and are subject to change without prior information. Colours may vary due to printing limitations. ##The benefits mentioned are of particular model and variant. Benefits will vary depending on the model and variant selected. For exact details, please contact your nearest authorized TATA Motors dealership. Additional benefits include consumer offer, exchange offer, loyalty, intervention consumer, intervention exchange. -Finance at the sole discretion of Financer. The EMI figures shown above are based on specific loan amount along with Balloon scheme options (25% or 30%) and 84 month repayment period. Actual EMI amounts may vary based on loan amount and total on road price. Schemes on Altroz & Tiago & Nexon may vary. ^^Altroz price mentioned is Smart MT , ex showroom Delhi. *Altroz is 5 star bncap rated hatchback as per 2025 test. +Altroz is the only hatchback to get 5 star rating across powertrain of Petrol, Diesel and CNG. As per Bharat Ncap results 2025. ≠Available in Premium Hatchback Segment. Tiago price mentioned is Tiago XE MT Petrol, ex-showroom New Delhi, Local Taxes extra. ¤Auto transmission is AMT gearbox available in Tiago XTA CNG, XZA CNG and XZA NRG CNG. #First and largest in segment refers to mid and high hatchback cars in India. GNCAP and BNCAP rating is not valid for Tiago. ◊Cruise control only available in TiagoXZ+. ~Tiago is available in Petrol, CNG & EV. ~~India's highest selling SUV as per SIAM report FY26 YTD April'25- Jan'26 which includes ICE & EV. +Nexon is available in petrol, diesel, CNG and EV in India **Nexon GNCAP tested in Feb'24 & BNCAP tested in Oct'24 for Smart. TATA Nexon scored highest adult occupant score as per test conducted by Bharat NCAP and Global NCAP in category of SUV less than 4 meter & engine less than 1.5L as per GNCAP & BNCAP test result. Ω The mileage figures quoted 24.07 kmpl for the Nexon diesel AMT are ARAI certified test figures under controlled conditions. Actual mileage may vary significantly as per driving conditions. Only in the compact SUV segment under 4meter. 1.5liter diesel engine). ^^Price mentioned is Nexon Smart MT Petrol, ex showroom Delhi Local taxes extra. Estimated ex-showroom price New Delhi. Terms and conditions apply.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com